

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXIII.]

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No. 20

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Epitome.....	361
Leading Articles:—	
China and Her Teachers.....	362
The Chinese Travelling Commission.....	363
The Social Tertium Quid.....	363
The Chinese Customs.....	363
Russia in the Far East.....	363
Mr. R. E. Bellios, Barrister.....	364
Hongkong Legislative Council.....	364
Loss to German Mission.....	368
Hongkong Sanitary Board.....	369
Supreme Court.....	369
Foundering of the S.S. "Chukong".....	370
Government Lunatic Asylum.....	371
Canton.....	372
Macao.....	372
Attempted Gaol-Breaking at Shanghai.....	372
Russia in the Far East.....	373
Correspondence.....	373
Commercial.....	373
Shipping.....	375

BIRTHS.

On April 29th, at Shanghai, the wife of Mr. M. ZIMMERMAN, of a son.

On May 6th, at the British Legation, Peking, the wife of C. C. A. KIRKE, of a son.

On May 9th, at Shanghai, to Rev. and Mrs. FRANK BAWLINSO, a son.

On May 10th, at Shanghai, the wife of THOMAS K. McINTYRE, of a son (still-born).

DEATH.

On May 8th, at Shanghai, WALTER GORDON STROUD, aged 27 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of April 17th arrived, per the ss. *Oceana*, on Wednesday, the 16th instant.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

Chao Erhs-n, Tartar-General of Fengtien, has wired to the Waiwupu to refuse the four conditions on which Japan will restore Yingkow to China, as these conditions interfere with the sovereign rights of China.

The *Nanfengpao* states that the Chinese Government wishes to take steps at once to build a railway from Tsitsihar to Harbin and thus forestall any possible aggressive design on the part of the Russians who have been surveying the route.

As a result of China's adhesion to the Tibetan Convention the proposal to organise Tibet into a province of the Empire has been dropped.

The shareholders of the Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd., who met on May 10th, confirmed the resolution increasing the capital and reducing the quorum.

Messrs. E. S. Kadoorie and Co. inform us that they are in receipt of telegraphic advices from Shanghai informing them that Motehappij tot Mij, Bosch-en Landbouw-exploitatie in Langkat, Limited, have declared a second interim dividend of Tl 7½ per share.

Japanese papers state that the losses to property sustained through the recent earthquakes in Formosa have reached Y13,000,000. The Formosan Government has spent Y1,280,000 for relief purposes, and the fund raised by the Taiwan Kiokai (the Formosa Society) amounts to Y57,000.

The Russians are much interested in the Chinese soldiers and their Japanese instructors. A German contemporary says that Viceroy Yuan Shih-kai is entertaining Capt. P. A. Rossoff of the Imperial General Staff, who is studying the progress made. He is at present at the Foreign Bureau at Pootungfu; there is a possibility of his visiting Canton and Wuchow.

A contemporary says that an English gentleman named R. E. Young, who attempted to reach the summit of Fuji on April 25th, had to descend owing to ice and the extreme cold. The patches of ice which linger on this always easy climb make it still less tedious, and are rather welcomed by Alpinists. The phrase "had to descend" cannot have been warranted, from a mountaineering point of view.

There were 149 Hongkong marriages in 1905, which compare with 131 in 1904. There were 988 Chinese births (676 male and 312 female) and 301 non-Chinese (153 males and 148 females) or a grand total of 1,289 for the year. The proportion of boy babies born to the Chinese is interesting. The deaths during the year numbered 6,592 (6,291 Chinese and 302 foreign). About a thousand bodies were taken to China to be buried.

The remains of Mr. Den's O'Keeffe, who died at the Government Civil Hospital on May 10th, were interred in the Catholic Cemetery at Happy Valley the day following. The deceased, who had been in the Sanitary Department for about five years, had a large circle of friends, who will regret to hear of his untimely end. His remains were followed to their last resting place by a large number of Sanitary Inspectors, also by the Volunteers, of which body deceased was a member.

Although the bathing season is not yet at its height numerous launches are to be seen leaving the city each afternoon for the stretch of water which the occupants fancy for disporting themselves, but in a week or two this distinctive feature of Hongkong's social life will become as pronounced as usual. Great as the facilities are here for enjoying ourselves in the water, it has to be borne in mind that there is a fairly large section who do not or cannot avail themselves of these opportunities. Now, it has been suggested that some man of enterprise might find a profitable speculation in erecting and equipping public baths at a spot comparatively near the city to be an attractive bathing spot.

It is reported by the *Nanfengpao* that Viceroy Chou Fu has recently memorialised the Throne with reference to the opening of Tungchow to the commerce of all the Treaty Powers, stating that in July, 1898, the late Viceroy Lin Kun-yi was instructed by the Peking Government to open Tungchow to foreign trade on the same conditions as Chinwangtao and other self-opened ports in the provinces, but owing to the difficulty of raising funds for meeting the opening expenses, the matter was temporarily shelved.

A Sanitary Board coolie was prosecuted by Inspector D. J. Mackenzie for being in unlawful possession of one tiger claw mounted with gold, one gold ear drop, and one piece of gold, reasonably expected to have been stolen. It was stated that defendant was engaged in removing plague cases, and suspicion fell on him when it was discovered that a bangle was missing from the body of one of the victims. His Worship said there was no doubt that defendant robbed the dead bodies, and he would have to pay a fine of \$75 or go to prison for three months.

How useful the opening of Changsha may be, if the opening does not refer to the city proper, can be guessed from the following. A correspondent reports that the water has "risen to well over 4 ft. some say nearly 4 ft. When it is remembered that 24ft. is a fairly high flood, it will be understood a little what this abnormal rise means. This is far above all previous marks of which there is any record. It is almost impossible to pass out of the city gates in boats, the water being nearly up to the top of the arches. The water is more than half-way up the rooms of the Custom House. Business has been absolutely at a standstill for some time. The goods loaded from the steamers remain on the pontoons, there being no means of getting them off. The rush of water past Changsha is tremendous. A large hulk, moored out in the stream, has been carried away, as also some of the smaller bridge pontoons belonging to the steamer companies. The Japanese pontoon dragged its up-river anchors, the steamer alongside having considerable difficulty in getting clear. In doing so it partly fouled one of its propellers and has not yet returned to Hankow."

The Legislative Council of Hongkong had an unusually lengthy sitting on Thursday. There was an interesting discussion initiated by the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock on the subject of the registration of partners in Chinese firms. The hon. gentleman said his scheme was different to others previously proposed: he considered that if the Chinese law limiting the liability of the partner in a firm to the proportion of the capital which he subscribed was introduced it would meet the objections of the Chinese themselves and would permit of a proper system of registration in the Colony. The motion was seconded by the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, but the Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett and the Attorney General, while realising the desirability of a form of registration being introduced, spoke against it, after which the proposition was withdrawn on the understanding that a bill would be drafted. Two new bills were introduced—one to bring the law relating to the property of married women into accord with the law of England and the other to regulate the qualifications and provide for the registration of dentists. Three bills passed the second reading.

CHINA AND HER TEACHERS.

(Daily Press, 14th May.)

Referring to the fact that the German officers who were recently employed in the Chinese Army have been dismissed and their places filled up by Japanese, the *Frankfort Gazette* assigns two reasons for the step which has been taken. "The Chinese", it says, "and specially those who are being stirred by the newly-awakened sense of nationality, prefer the yellow man to the white, with whose services they are always glad to be able to dispense, and secondly, the Japanese officer, while distinguished for zeal and practical efficiency, is content with more modest remuneration than his European rival". No doubt both these reasons have influenced the Chinese in the step which they have taken, but there are others which are not referred to by the *Frankfort Gazette* which there is good reason to believe have had their effect. The Chinese have had reason to doubt whether they might not find themselves opposed to Germany, now that she is no longer likely to be restrained either by Russia or by Great Britain; and they are not disposed to be dependent for their military knowledge upon a Power with whom there is any possibility or at least any reasonable likelihood of their coming into conflict. No doubt this contingency is over-estimated by the Chinese, but, in view of what has of late been going on in Europe, it is one which they may naturally be supposed to have taken into account. This, however, is probably by no means the only consideration which has induced them to make the change. It has always been found that the Chinese flatter themselves they can get rid of those who are employed to teach them at a very early stage. So soon as they have mastered a few rudiments of the matter they desire to learn, they fondly believe they understand it completely, and that they themselves will know best how to turn it to practical use. Of course, in this they are generally mistaken, and in a few years they unlearn all that has been taught them. They may have been influenced by considerations such as these; and we can understand their dismissing the German officers in the same way that they have dismissed many others from the time of Gordon to the present day. What, however, is worthy of notice is their engaging Japanese officers in their place. The economical considerations to which our German contemporary refers would not influence the Chinese so much as might be imagined, judging from the standpoint of more systematic European Governments. The Chinese are not inclined to parsimony in respect to matters of this kind, and would hardly be likely to give this as a reason for the step they have taken except as a convenient means of avoiding giving other reasons upon which they prefer not to enter. What really seems to be indicated is that they are desirous in such matters to work with Japan, because they have at last realised that it is to the interests of China to have a friendly *entente* with a nation occupying so dominant a position. In this they are perfectly right. The chances of Japan going counter to the true interests of China are extremely small, and for many years it will be obviously to the advantage of China to keep on friendly terms with her near and powerful neighbour. In the meantime it is desirable to learn as much as she can from Japan and thus be in a better position to hold her own should events take a contrary turn. The Chinese are so self-satisfied that they would fully believe they would be able to learn from Japan a great

deal more than what she taught them, and thus be in a position to meet her with effect, should events at any time take a turn in that direction. In this, the Chinese will probably find themselves mistaken, as the Japanese are quite as quick as the Chinese in mastering facts, and know much better how to apply them. The likelihood, however, is that the Japanese will be able to make it evident to China that it is to her true interest to work with foreign nations in place of constantly opposing them; and should China once learn this lesson, there will be hope of a better state of things for her both internally and in her relations with foreign Powers. The reactionary party in China may hope that a combination with Japan will form a security against the encroachments of any European nation either in the direction of China or of Japan, and may carry this idea to the length of looking to the day when it may yet be possible to get rid of the foreigner altogether and for the East to be left free to manage her own affairs in Eastern, that is, as far as China is concerned, Chinese fashion. Such an aspiration, however, involves a mixing of oil with water, as Japan is certain to continue in the course upon which she has entered; and will prefer to continue to advance with foreign nations than to combine with China in what she knows must in the end prove a fruitless opposition to them, though it might for a time work serious mischief. It may be reasonably surmised that the better informed Chinese officials, especially those at Peking, where they come into contact with foreign diplomatists and are likely to have the true facts of the situation impressed upon them, are alive to this bearing of the question and are wise enough to see that by friendly relations with Japan they will best secure their own interests, and be enabled by degrees to themselves uphold the policy which the majority of foreign nations are in favour of, namely, that of preserving the integrity of China and still maintaining reasonable and friendly commercial relations with the outside world.

The revenue from markets in the Colony last year amounted to \$1,524,445.

There were as many as 5,163 boat licences of various descriptions issued during 1905.

The first registration of copyright work of Fine Art, under Ordinance No. 17 of 1901, occurred last year. It was a set of picture post-cards.

It is interesting to learn from the Registrar General's report for 1905 that the vaccinations performed during the year at the various hospitals and in the villages reached the total of 5,722.

THE CHINESE TRAVELLING COMMISSION.

(Daily Press, 15th May)

It is very difficult for those who are on or near the spot, so to speak, to avoid a habit of scepticism where Chinese reforms are concerned. This is not due, we honestly believe, so much to racial prejudice or foreign arrogance, for indeed the observant foreigners have long ago acquired an enduring respect for the enlightened Chinaman who is really in earnest in his patriotism. It has been caused rather by a long series of disappointments, in which the better class Chinese must also have shared. Thus while our brethren in Europe appear to have been cock-a-whoop over the visit of the Chinese Commissioners, and to have been regarding their mission of enquiry as a sure promise of splendid performances to come, we in the East have failed to work up any such enthusiasm. We remember the bomb incidents before the departure, the political and backstairs

opposition, the reluctance of the members to set forth, and the sending back en route of one member "to save expense". After all, the Commissioners are in no better case or more promising position than the man who goes to seek advice. Good advice is always forthcoming, but it is not always followed. We may be pardoned for thinking that the wonders of Europe brought to China's very doors having had so small an influence, the wonders she has sent to see can do little more. Still, there is no gainsaying that this departure was on the face of it a good sign; and it would be scepticism run mad to forget that reforms must come, and that the times appear to be ripening for them. We can but hope that the foreigners will not have to endure another cycle of the old-fashioned Cathay.

One of the subjects which appears to have greatly interested the Commissioners—we hope more than armaments did—was education. Cynics will undoubtedly say that the present juncture is an unfortunate one for such a study in Great Britain, which is so notoriously disturbed by educational experiments of sorts. Yet if the Chinese notice how injurious it is to have one subject entangled with another, no harm can result. In China during the last two years there has been a spasmodic sort of attempt made to reform educational methods. The old-fashioned examinations have gone, and teachers of all sorts and conditions have been enlisted. People in Europe, however, are likely to be misled in this matter also, if they have nothing to go by but such communications as the following, from the *Morning Post*:

"Except for a few instances of disorder all over the country temples have been turned into schools with surprising alacrity, often with malicious glee. Superstitious emblems have been torn down and idols destroyed. At Canton, for instance, an image of the patron god of the old learning was burned before a large crowd. Even the old scholars, the 'literati', the strongest conservative force in China, have caught the infection, and students of 30 and 40 years of age are found patiently starting their education again. The new schools are eagerly attended, and everywhere there is a demand for more schools and for teachers with Western knowledge. Chinese gentry are forming societies to secure capable instructors; students are being sent to Japan at their family's expense; girls' schools are being started by private enterprise, and there are 150 girls studying in Tokyo. There is a dangerous tendency in China at present to rush education, and much of the teaching is of the poorest quality, but the desire to learn is very impressive."

That is not a paragraph to be described as untruthful, but it conveys a wrong impression all the same. We have to understand who felt "malicious glee", who ordered the appropriation of the temples, and why; and we have to know the ill repute in which an idle and degenerate priesthood has been held by the people. Then also should be taken into account the motives inspiring this rush after foreign learning; and the points of view of the different classes advocating a change. One really hopeful feature of the Commission now travelling is that its members are drawn from the ruling class. In China particularly there is "room at the top" for enlightenment and a change of ideals; and it may be that the return of such influential students may herald a wholesome change of mind on the part of the *Dowager Empress*. It seems certain that but for her the reformers would be much further advanced than they are.

We are glad to hear that the capital of the Kiangpei Concessions, Ltd., has been fully subscribed, and the directors went to allotment on May 10th.

THE SOCIAL TERTIUM QUID.

(Daily Press, 16th May.)

Allowing for some of the exaggeration which seems a necessary concomitant of all earnestness, there was a certain reasonableness in the article by "GEORGE EGERTON", published in Saturday's issue of this journal. The "poor we have always with us"—the professional poor, perhaps we may say, to distinguish the pet objects of sentiment and pity from that mute, inglorious army of "middle-class serfs" who suffer worse pangs than the submerged tenth, as a consequence of that "decent pride" which others call a "shoddy ideal". These "hardest and worst paid workers of the country", who march under no clamorous banners, who enjoy no eight hours' day, are, we read, the miserable buffer between the classes and the masses. They pay an unjust proportion of the taxation that provides the working man of the horny-handed variety with cheap dwellings, cheap transit, free education, free baths, free libraries, free asylums; and it is they who will most feel the pinch of paying for the half-promised free boots, free meals, and pensions. As the writer told us,

"None of these benefits the middle-class man, with the exception, perhaps, of the free libraries. To send his children to the Council school would be to negate the efforts of years of self-denial and to lower his children in the social scale; to endow them with an accent and tone which would handicap them in most of the professions; to give them a premature knowledge of evil words and facts; to force them to mix with the offspring of every congenital criminal who begets his kind whenever he gets a spell out of prison, of every lunatic who is cast out of the asylum during temporary lucid intervals, of the wastrel, of the feeble-minded, and the degenerate. No, he stints a bit more, gives up his cheap wine, his cigar, and pays for the private education of his children; and an unfair tithe to the education of those of the working-man who could better afford to contribute himself."

Those of us who can afford to put into practice the theories of "Sartor Resartus", and kindred ideas of emancipation from convention—and it is a bold and often costly thing to do—are able to see the shoddiness of the middle-class ideal, which, however, "GEORGE EGERTON" tells us is "at least an ideal whose attainment calls for thrift, self-denial, and personal respect; and, when all is said and done, this shoddy ideal is the keystone of England's greatness, the solid foundation of her Imperial Dominion". It is, moreover, an ideal which prevents the victim from crying out and drawing public attention to his troubles.

The article came rather appropriately for Hongkong, just when we were hearing about the poor coolie's grievance with regard to high rents. It is a question whether the house rents in this Colony do not hit others harder, those who are much higher in the social scale than the coolie, and who yet are not so in respect of proportionate salary. Where the coolie pays twenty-five per cent. of his wage as rent for his cubicle, the "middle-class serf", to adopt "GEORGE EGERTON's" term, pays fifty per cent. or more for his flat or suite. He cannot send his wife and children into the country to live healthily and cheaply. He cannot ride in the workmen's trams, even when he is prepared to sacrifice dignity for solvency. Part of his "shoddy ideal", we suppose, is more of a stern necessity. He must maintain a certain standard of respectability of appearance, if he does not wish to risk his means of livelihood. We heard some time ago the wail of the "Griffin", who complained that the cost of living was now out of proportion with wages. These luxurious young gentlemen might begin to think of the Far Eastern remedy

for trouble, the suicide's way, if they had to experience half the privations of the honest fellow who keeps a roof over wife and weans, pays his own doctor's bills, and fights the demon debt with the same energy that earns him all his employer can afford to pay these hard times. When we endeavour to think of his supposed circumstances in detail, we wonder that any can be found to weep over the grinning coolie, who indulges in riotous orgies with every extra windfall of ten cents, and would presumably be quite happy if the Sanitary Board people would only refrain from bothering him with what he regards as irrelevant details. To the academic observer, he seems a far happier individual than the BOB CRATCHITS whose troubles we have been guessing at. But, as we have said before, Mr. CRATCHIT would probably be the first to resent pity. If as little were heard of the woes of the poor landlord (who also has his troubles) and of the poor coolie (who does not wear them on his sleeve) the Levite need not be put to the trouble of crossing the road.

THE CHINESE CUSTOMS.

(Daily Press, 17th May.)

The Edict appointing Chief Commissioners of Customs does not imply any such wholesale revolution in that department as many foreigners have feared; and the approaching resignation of Sir ROBERT HART may easily have no connection with it whatever. It has been suggested that he, or his British successor, will find the Commissioners TIEH LIANG and TANG SHAO-YI, who now take over from the Foreign Office the supreme control of the Inspectorate-General, much better to work with than the circumlocutory Wai-wu-pu. So far as the Edict itself is concerned, it contains nothing more than does its free translation as published in our previous issue. There is no talk, except among subordinate members of the service, who may naturally feel qualmful, of foreigners being superseded; and if Sir ROBERT HART retires, the probability is that he will be succeeded by his relative and Deputy, Sir ROBERT BREDON, as a result of Great Britain's understanding with China. So long as British trade looms largest, so long will the Inspector-General be a Britisher. So there need be no alarm on that score. That there should have been expressions of alarm at the change is partly to be regarded as evidence that the Chinese have not yet earned the confidence of foreigners, in matters where the interests of the latter are involved. In respect of the Customs, of course, foreigners have every right to interfere, as they have a mortgage on the Customs revenues until China's obligations to them are fulfilled and discharged. Sir THOMAS JACKSON reminded the Chinese Travelling Commissioners at the China Association's dinner that "if every tael of revenue found a safe resting place in the Imperial exchequer it was impossible to conceive what China might not accomplish", and we fancy it is well understood at Peking that at present there can be no question of treating the foreign employees of the Customs as superfluous.

There cannot be any real regret felt when Sir ROBERT HART retires, for he is well past the three-score-and-ten mark, and it would be unreasonable to expect that he should continue to enjoy the genius for affairs that has characterised his long rule. His appointment was a unique one, his work for the last forty-three years constitutes a record of which any man might be proud, and the general admiration he has earned cannot find adequate expression. The

EMPEROR DOWAGER told him two years ago that his continued presence in Peking was more necessary than ever, and if nature would but stay its course in the case of such valued servants, that remark would hold good to-day. Undoubtedly much of his influence and spirit animates his able lieutenant, Sir ROBERT BREDON, who has lately relieved him of much responsibility. The change, when it comes, will be little more than the transference of ELIJAH'S mantle to ELISHA.

RUSSIA IN THE FAR EAST.

(Daily Press, 18th May.)

Not very long ago we quoted from Russian newspapers which induced us to the belief that in some quarters at least Russia's traditional ambition—towards the Pacific, yet so notoriously unpacific—was weakening. Striking confirmation reaches us direct from St. Petersburg, in the letter of a correspondent who has been attentively observing the progress of the elections. The points of resemblance between China and Russia vis-a-vis reforms continue to appear. Referring to some of the re-actionary associations which have been defeated by the Liberals, our correspondent, who knows Japan and North China intimately, says they are "almost Chinese in their self-complacency and their dislike of all things foreign". As samples of their unmistakeable backwardness, we need only quote two passages from their "programme". One says, "The Hebrew question must be treated apart from all other allied questions, in view of the instinctive hostility of the Hebrews to Christianity and towards non-Hebrew races, and of their striving after world-wide domination."

Another says, "In the province of foreign affairs, the Tsarists attribute all the misfortunes of their country to its failure to interfere in the Anglo-Boer conflict. Russia had then an unprecedented opportunity of coming to the rescue of a handful of heroes fighting for their country against a powerful enemy and of also ranging on their side Germany and France. For that sin of omission we have been punished. We would now advocate a continental alliance," i.e., against England.

The Liberals and Constitutional Democrats now figure conspicuously in the new Parliament, and if their influence be as great as their present boldness, the indications are that Russia in the Far East will be a quite negligible quantity. The Liberals represent the somewhat pronounced opinion, previously noted by us, that Russian imperialism has been misguided; and it is said that its Asiatic adventures have so disgusted the people that they would be quite indifferent to the loss of Finland, Poland, and Eastern Siberia. They are very outspoken as to the unpatriotic and dishonest motives of the officials who form the bureaucracy. "Why did the Government occupy Manchuria?" demanded Mr. RODICHOFF, one of the stormiest orators of the Left. His own immediate answer, loudly applauded, was, "In order that it might find more places for officials". From this we may gather a quite sufficient idea of the spirit with which a Liberal Government in Russia (should the TSAR not break his word again, and send his Cossacks to break it up) will approach the outstanding questions of the Far East. Of course the practical situation remains in any event satisfactory to all who fear further Russian aggression at this end of the world. The Duma may be suppressed, the Liberals

hounded down, the reactionaries triumph once more, for a time; but for years to come there can be no more Far Eastern adventures from St. Petersburg. Corea is safe, and the only danger China has to fear is from entanglements made by her own officials' proneness to stupid intrigues. Any more coquetting with Russia can only incur the stern displeasure of Japan, and in that event it will be a hard thing to help her. Certainly Russia can do nothing for her. As things are at present, Russia stands to lose hold even of Eastern Siberia, unless the present population can be outnumbered by the military colonists whom it is suggested should be sent from the West. The Eastern Siberians of to-day have evolved from two classes, neither of whom can be counted as favourably inclined to the old-style Russian. One class is descended from men who never were serfs: the other from political exiles or from men brought into close touch with the ideals of those exiles. Already there have been incidents east of Baikal which show how tightly stretched is the thread that has hitherto bound them to Tsardom.

Yet in spite of all this, the dream of fighting Japan again another day persists. The knowledge of the secret intentions of their own hearts prompts some to declare that Japan is already amassing money and means to attack Russia. The Russians have already detected flaws in the Portsmouth Treaty which they consider will make the picking of a quarrel an easy matter. As to that, of course, Great Britain will have something to say, by virtue of the "unprovoked attack" clause of the revised Anglo-Japanese Alliance. The bureaucracy at St. Petersburg is already very uneasy at China's activity in Mongolia and in Northern Manchuria; and we would not be greatly surprised to learn that the jatuus advisers of the Tsar had some notion of bettering (from their point of view) domestic conditions with a successful war—which is what they might call a raid on China. For many reasons the idea is a stupid one, and only possible in the brains of such men as are still struggling to put back the hands of the clock in Russia.

MR. R. E. BELILIOS, BARRISTER.

A large number of barristers and solicitors were present in the Supreme Court on May 16 to witness the enrolment of Mr. R. E. Belilios as a member of the Hongkong bar.

The Attorney General, Sir H. S. Berkeley, said he had great pleasure in asking his Lordship (the Chief Justice) to admit to the bar of the Colony Mr. Raphael Belilios, who was a member of the Inner Temple. Mr. Belilios was called in 1903, and was a member of Northumberland Centre. It gave the speaker additional pleasure in moving the gentleman's admission to the bar from the fact that he was the son of an old and highly-esteemed Colonist, the late Hon. Mr. E. R. Belilios, C.M.G., who for many years lived here, and whose works of charity and other public good to the Colony stand as a monument to his memory for all time.

His Honour the Chief Justice (to Mr. Belilios)—The Court is very pleased to approve, admit and enrol you for practice as a barrister in the Supreme Court of this Colony. It also, for the reasons stated by the Attorney General, welcomes you, and it hopes that those powers of speech which rumour says you are gifted with, may be exercised for your own benefit.

Mr. Belilios—I must thank your Lordship sincerely for your kind words to me, also Sir Henry Berkeley. My only regret is that I will not be able to remain here so permanently and continuously as I could wish, and I am going away next week.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on the 17th instant in the Council Chamber at 2.30 p.m.

PRESENT:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, MAJOR SIR MATTHEW NATHAN, K.C.M.G.

HIS EXCELLENCY MAJOR-GENERAL VILLIERS HATTON, C.B. (Commanding the Troops).

Hon. Mr. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Sir H. S. BERKELEY, K.C. (Attorney-General).

Hon. Mr. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. Captain L. A. W. BARNES-LAWRENCE, R.N. (Harbour Master).

Hon. Mr. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Mr. E. A. HEWETT.

Hon. Mr. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, M.B., C.M., C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK.

Hon. Mr. E. OSBORNE.

Hon. Mr. C. W. DICKSON.

Mr. A. G. M. FLETCHER (Clerk of Council).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

NEW MEMBERS.

The Hon. Mr. E. Osborne and the Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett subscribed the usual oaths and took their seats as members.

APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I appoint the Hon. Mr. Pollock to the Law Committee vice Mr. Shewan, and the Hon. Mr. Osborne and the Hon. Mr. Hewett to the Public Works Committee vice Sir Paul Chater and Mr. Gershom Stewart.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the following papers:—Jurers list for 1906; report of Queen's College for 1905; City of Victoria and Hill District Waterworks; report of the Superintendent of Victoria Gaol for 1905; report of the Director of the Hongkong Observatory for 1905; report of the Blue Book for 1905; report of the Harbour Master for 1905; report of the Registrar General for 1905; report of the health and sanitary condition of the Colony for 1905; a research into the etiology of beri-beri, together with a report of an outbreak.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

The HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY—Sir, I have the honour to lay on the table Financial minutes Nos. 7 to 27, excepting No. 15, which is withdrawn, and move that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The HON. COLONIAL TREASURER—I beg to second the motion.

The motion was carried.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The most important of the Financial minutes which it is proposed to refer to the Finance Committee is No. 23 which is to provide a fund of \$350,000 in aid of the Kowloon-Canton Railway. This is the amount which the Chief Resident Engineer anticipates being able to spend by the end of the current year. I will explain to you briefly how it is proposed that this money should be provided. In connection with the loan which was authorised by this Council on the 6th April and 6th October of each year there is due from the Viceroy of the Hu Kwang Province interest at the rate of 4½ per cent on the loan of \$11,000,000 made to him by this Government, or on so much of it as is still outstanding. There is also due under agreement with Viceroy Chan Chih-tung a sum of \$110,000 on the 6th October of each year as an instalment towards a refund of that loan. These sums, paid in interest or in repayment, will be credited to a special fund. On that special fund the interest at 3½ per cent on the stock we have raised will be the first charge; and then from the fund the expenses of our section of the Canton-Kowloon railway will be paid. The balance, after repayments of the Viceroy's instalments have been made, will be devoted to paying off our debt. We shall pay on the advances made from that special fund

for the construction of our railway interest at the rate of 3½ per cent into the special fund. The next financial minute of importance is financial minute No. 15, which is for a sum of \$42,000 in aid of the vote, public works extraordinary, No. 19, for forming and kerbing streets. This is a very considerable excess on the original vote of \$10,000. It is mainly due to works that have been taken in hand either in fulfilment of obligations of private owners to whom the Government has sold land, or to take advantage of work carried out by private owners in fulfilment of their obligations to Government connected with similar leases. For instance, the reclamation at Tsimshatsui has involved the construction of two roads by the lessees. The construction of those two roads partly paid for by lessees, has had to be completed by Government. \$12,000 will be saved on item 17, that is, the extension of Robinson Road in Kowloon, as a private reclamation has enabled the Government to get the work done under more advantageous conditions than we anticipated. Financial minute No. 13 provides a sum of \$16,000 in aid of the vote, refunds of revenue. This is due to a larger refund of rates under section 35 of Ordinance No. 6 of 1901, a larger refund having to be made than was anticipated when the estimates were prepared. Financial minute No. 9 is to provide a sum of \$15,200 in aid of the vote, public works extraordinary, communication, metallic circuits including new route to North Point. Of this sum of \$15,200, \$12,200 is due to metallic circuits rendered necessary through the Government telephone system being injuriously affected by the working of the Electric Tramways. Financial minutes Nos. 7 and 16 together provide \$6,000 in aid of the vote for lighthouses. This sum is due to the prevalence of fog in the first four months of the year, necessitating an extensive use of fog signals. At the suggestion of the Harbour Master the Brethren of Trinity House are being communicated with to see if sound signalling cannot be adopted in the Colony. Financial minute No. 20 for \$4,455 is in aid of the vote already passed in this Council in connection with the reception of H.R.H. Prince Arthur of Connaught. In view of the generous manner in which private buildings were decorated, I consider this is a fair charge on the public. Financial minute No. 12 is to provide \$1,740 in aid of the vote to the hospital hulk *Hygeia*, due of course to the regrettable prevalence of smallpox in the early part of the year. The remainder of the votes do not require special explanation by me.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to lay on the table the report of the Finance Committee No. 1, and move that it be adopted.

The COLONIAL TREASURER—I beg to second. The motion was carried.

AMENDMENT TO THE SCAVENGING AND

CONSERVANCY BYE-LAWS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to move, with the approval of hon. members, that bye-law No. 4 of the Scavenging and Conservancy Bye-laws be hereby amended by deleting the full stop at the end thereof and substituting a colon and adding the following words:—In the case of bake houses, dairies, laundries, opium divans and premises used for offensive trades, such dustbins shall be constructed of materials to the satisfaction of the Sanitary Board.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL seconded, and the motion was carried.

REGISTRATION OF PARTNERS.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Your Excellency, I beg to move that it is desirable that legislation for the registration of partners, with limited liability, should be introduced into this Colony. This motion, sir, is brought forward in connection with a question which is a comparatively old one in this Colony—I think it was first agitated over 30 years ago—namely, the question of the registration of members of Chinese firms in this Colony. Various attempts, as your Excellency is aware, have been made from time to time in this Colony and also in the sister colony of the Straits Settlements for the purpose of putting, if possible, the question of registration of partners in Chinese firms upon a satisfactory footing. From time to time in the Straits Settlements Ordinances have been introduced with that object, and I believe

have got as far as the committee stage and have been dropped. I believe at the present time there is an Ordinance dealing with this question in the Straits Settlements which has now either passed the second reading or else is in the committee stage. As I have said, from time to time this question, a very important question, has come up for consideration, and my only excuse for coming before the Council and bringing the question up again is that I have a scheme to propose on different lines from any legislation hitherto proposed. Your Excellency is perhaps aware that in 1901 representatives of a commission sat here in this Colony and made a report which was published in the *Government Gazette* of October, 1901, dealing with the question of registration for Chinese partners in firms. But, sir, that commission sat upon the basis that if such Chinese partners registered as partners in a firm, all the provisions of English law would apply, by virtue of which every partner would be liable for the entire loss sustained by the whole. The question of registration was discussed upon the basis that although that was English law it would be applied to Chinese partners so registering. It was pointed out by various witnesses who gave evidence before that commission, and by various gentlemen who sat upon that commission, that the probable result would be that the wealthy Chinese would put forward some poor relation as a man of straw and get him registered as a partner in the firm. But, sir, I would think that the very essence of successful registration of partners of Chinese firms is that we should follow out in the adoption of any scheme of registration Chinese law with regard to the liability of partners. And that law, as I understand it, makes a partner only liable for the losses of the firm in proportion to his total share of capital in the firm. In other words, let us assume the capital of a firm to be \$10,000; if a partner subscribes \$1,000 and the firm gets into difficulty as regards making good a deficiency, he would only be liable to one-tenth of the amount because his share of capital was \$1,000 out of \$10,000. I am speaking from a Chinese point of view now, because we have to consider the view they will take of the matter. The Chinese must look upon the view of each partner being held liable as being inequitable; I say inequitable purely looking at it from their point of view. That being so, it seems to me obviously useless to expect them to come forward and register their true names if it would bring upon them the law. What I would suggest is this: that as an inducement to persuade the Chinese to register their proper names as partners, and to persuade the proper people to come forward as partners, if they registered it should be enacted that by so doing they could come forward and obtain the benefit of the Chinese law of partnership. That would be an inducement I would suggest should be held out in order to persuade the Chinese to register. It seems to me that if anything like penal provisions are suggested in a bill, all forms of registration will entirely fall short of their object. Unless we hold forth some such substantial inducement as I have hinted at, we shall always fail, always have a man of straw put forward in place of the partner. Of course it would also now be necessary in any such legislation to provide that individual names should be registered as opposed to "tong" names. Those of us who have met in partnership disputes in this Colony are aware of the great difficulty occasioned the learned judges when a tong name is introduced. The question is—Who is represented by tong? The reply is—I am not the principal tong; it is my cousin or somebody else, not me. Of course, sir, I am perfectly well aware that there are a good many things to be said on the other side in connection with the question of registration, but my reason for bringing forward this question now is that this point of registration with liability according to Chinese law may be considered and discussed in this Colony. Of course I don't expect your Excellency at the present moment to pledge the Government to anything. No doubt the question will be considered and discussed in the Chamber of Commerce, and it is a point requiring consideration before any action is taken. It is a question put forward on somewhat new lines to those on which it was dealt with before.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI I beg to second the motion. I think there cannot be any two opinions about the desirability of doing something to have a registration of partnerships in this Colony as well as in other colonies like Singapore, Penang and other Straits Settlements. This subject, as the hon. member opposite just stated, came up for consideration 30 years ago, and I believe at that time it was by a petition of leading Chinese merchants, praying that measures should be taken and laws enacted that all Chinese partnerships should be registered, and that the real partners of Chinese firms should be made known. Since that time the question has been raised and discussed, and the consensus of opinion is that it is a desirable thing if we could bring it about. Commissioners have been appointed to consider the question, and in two of them I have taken part. In the last one, in the year 1901, the result of our inquiry, so far as I can remember, was that we would have no objection at all to recommending an Ordinance to be passed for the registration of partnerships, but at the same time we found very great difficulty in recommending the provisions that should be contained in that Ordinance. First of all we found that if the Ordinance or law we proposed should be made would have any chance of success at all, it would require a very large staff, and secondly, a very great deal of expense. Then, another difficulty was supposing we expended a very large amount in trying to get every registration as correct as possible, the question would arise, could we depend upon the correctness of those registrations? I think that under English law, as explained to the Council just now by my hon. and learned friend opposite, that the Chinese would not, in spite of any penalty inflicted by the Ordinance, come forward and register their true names. They would do just as they are doing now without any compulsion by law; they would supply a "tong" name, or a fictitious name. The registration might contain one character of a man's real name and one character of another name, and the result of so much labour and expense on the part of the Government would be lost when a real case of insolvency or bankruptcy occurred. We know that the more stringent the law we make the more we will drive away capital from the Colony and prevent the sending of money to be invested in the various businesses here; and that evil we considered to be very great, and it would overbalance whatever benefit we might derive from such a law. Now, without that law we have a large number of bankruptcy cases, partnership disputes and so on, still we have a large amount of capital sent from out-ports of China to this Colony, but if we have a stringent law compelling registration of partnerships it may be that we will not have the benefit of that money. The only point we considered of any interest at all, and I believe all Chinese merchants who gave evidence and sat on the commission agreed, was that if we could modify the provisions of the English law, and conform more or less with the Chinese law and practice, requiring each partner to contribute towards the liabilities of the firm in the same proportion as they contributed to capital, then I believe a large number of Chinese residents in the Colony, and out of it, would be glad to make known their real names, and to register their true names and the capital of their firms; and furthermore, it would induce them in times of trouble to come forward and honestly discharge their share of liabilities, and also to assist the creditors in getting hold of some other partners who might be well to do and able to pay their share of liability, and induce them to come forward and settle. And instead, sir, of everybody running away when a case of bankruptcy occurred, we would have some substantial man, at all events, come forward and pay his share of liability, and also get other partners, whom they would know much better than creditors, to pay their share as well; and even if the worst came to the worst, in every case fifteen per cent. might be paid, and that would be much better than the whole of the partners of the firm running away. Some of them might be got at by creditors through proceedings in the Supreme Court, but what they would get out of the estate would hardly pay Court expenses. For that reason alone I will support this motion for legislation for the registration of partners with limited

liabilities; when the liability of each partner is in direct proportion to the amount he has to contribute towards the capital of a firm, and if legislation were attempted on these lines I think it would have a very beneficial result, and would give the Chinese resident in the Colony, or away from the Colony in Canton and neighbouring ports, an opportunity of taking part in business enterprise in the Colony which otherwise they would not dare to do openly. I think a very good example could be shown, and members of Council will see the force of it: A firm starts with, say, a lakh of dollars, £10,000, capital. A man who is worth under a lakh might be glad to take a \$10,000 share in that firm. Well, the firm might go on steadily for a few years until a commercial crisis occurred, and then it might lose something like two lakhs in addition to its capital. An honourable man, this partner might give away all the money he had left, but he could not satisfy more than 50 per cent. of the whole amount. What he would do is simply say—Well, I couldn't do anything more even if I were to give up every penny I possessed; and he wouldn't dare to come forward to make any arrangement at all, because the law is working against him. If I were a creditor I should prefer that this man should come forward and pay \$20,000. A debtor doesn't mind paying his proportion, but when you saddle him with the whole of the load, he will simply say—Well, I cannot meet all the liabilities of the firm, and therefore I won't. I think there is a great deal in this, and I am quite sure Your Excellency and the Government will give your best attention to the subject, and if an Ordinance is to be drafted my friend opposite says he will be glad to contribute his services, and I also shall be very glad indeed to contribute my services.

Hon. Mr. HEWITT—Sir, with regard to the motion now before hon. members of the Council, the question naturally attracted the attention of the Chamber of Commerce, of which I have the honour to be the representative. So soon as I heard that this motion was to be brought before the Council to day, I asked my colleagues at the Chamber of Commerce to hold a meeting and to discuss the motion as we knew it at that time. At the Chamber of Commerce when we considered the question, the only conclusion that we came to was that the motion was extremely vague, and we did not understand what it meant. The Chamber thought that certain conditions were contemplated, and that being so it requested me to state, with your Excellency's permission, before this Council, that the only view they could express was that until they read the speeches made by the proposer and seconder of the motion and any further debate which might take place, they were unable to express an opinion, and they requested me therefore to express the hope, if such were permissible, that should the view of the Chamber of Commerce be required, a division should not be taken of it, but a final division be deferred until a later meeting when the committee of the Chamber could have an opportunity of considering the arguments brought forward, and could request me to state its views. I may say that so far as I am personally concerned I go further. The opinion I hold, your Excellency, is that nothing could be gained by carrying such a motion; I do not see that any advantage could accrue by accepting or rejecting it. The committee of the Chamber of Commerce as at present composed support their predecessors in the firm belief that legislation in this direction is desirable, and they would gladly welcome it provided such legislation could be brought before the Council in the form of a bill, and would result in a satisfactory solution of the difficulties and abuses which we now experience in the conduct of trade, and at the same time not affecting the prosperity of the Colony by frightening Chinese capitalists from coming and investing their money here. As I have already stated, your Excellency, I am not in favour of the motion personally. I have listened to the able speeches made by the learned gentlemen, but regret to say I do not consider the motion should be adopted by the Council. To show the vagueness of the resolution as understood by the committee of the Chamber of Commerce, I may say that until the hon. member who proposed the resolution spoke I certainly did not understand that the proposed legislation was to

extend only to Chinese firms. Taking the motion as it stands, it most clearly referred to all persons doing business in the Colony. Supposing the matter of the registration of partners was accepted and became law, the object would be that we would be asking British and other firms trading in the Colony to conform with certain inquisitorial regulations which are not enforced in other parts of the British Empire. On the other hand if they are to apply to Chinese firms only, it would be a departure from that broad-minded liberal policy by which all British Colonies are governed, namely, that except for some very special reasons no distinction is made by the law of any class or nationality, a policy the wisdom of which is demonstrated by the prosperity of our Colony. That is one of the points that occurred to me while listening to the speeches of hon. members. It appears to me that not only is nothing to be gained by agreeing to this motion, but also that not much is to be gained by a detailed discussion on the question. Both hon. members, more particularly the seconder, went into a good deal of detail and referred to the difficulty lying before us, and that being so it is only right for me to refer to some of the main facts as they occurred to me, speaking entirely as a commercial and not as a legal man. The hon. proposer of the motion spoke of Chinese law as it obtains in China, and I think remarks on the same subject were also made use of by the seconder. I do not know whether it is law in China, but certainly it is custom in the Southern Provinces of China, and I am told a very satisfactory custom in working, that no partner in a Chinese firm is liable for more than his proportion of the debt. He may be the most wealthy member but the smallest shareholder, but in the event of the firm becoming bankrupt he only pays his proportion of the debt on the proportion of capital he holds. That we have understood for some time past is the form of registration among the Chinese, and it would be accepted by them here. In fact, as your Excellency is aware, this is not a new question. When forwarding a petition from the Chinese merchants asking for registration of partners Sir Cecil Clementi Smith, the Registrar General, in his letter to the Colonial Secretary dated 28th August, 1874, distinctly lays down that the petition forwarded to the Government is based on that idea that partners are only liable for the actual proportion of debt based on their share in the firm. The hon. and learned member who proposed the motion spoke of the reluctance of the Chinese to register in Hongkong. It has been my business to consider the question, and I have naturally made inquiries among many classes and conditions of people in the place, and understand generally from leading Chinese merchants that what the Chinese are afraid of is the unlimited liabilities they incur if they own to being partners in a Chinese firm under British law. A Chinese merchant, doing business, say, in Canton, will have no particular difficulty in finding out who are partners of a firm, whereas they do experience that difficulty in Hongkong, the reason being that people register names of men of straw or record "tong" names because they are afraid of the bankruptcy law as it now exists. It is very probable, as the proposer was saying, that the only solution of the difficult question is to be found in limiting the liability of Chinese firms according to the Chinese customs that now obtain on the mainland. As we know, and I speak now from nearly 30 years personal experience, the average Chinese merchant is an honest upright man and willing in fair weather or foul to discharge his liabilities, and I believe if some satisfactory solution could be come to it will decrease the cases of fraudulent bankrupts absolutely avoiding their liability by disappearing on the mainland. On finding exactly how the law stands, honest merchants in Hongkong, even during a crisis, will assist creditors in recovering debts and discovering absconding debtors though they may have shifted to China. As we know, difficulties against solving this complex question have occurred in the Straits Settlements and also in India. I believe I am correct in stating that the latest heard from the Bombay Presidency is that the Bombay Chamber of Commerce will have nothing to do with the matter at all, while in Bengal they are a little more hopeful and are still work-

ing away on a bill. Years ago Singapore passed the second reading of a bill, and then it died a natural death. At present a bill has passed its second reading there. This bill is of a most drastic nature; it compels the registration of all firms every twelve months, and altogether it appears to me to be of such a nature that it can only suffer the fate of its predecessors. I merely refer to these points as I think it is as well to point out how very great the difficulties are, and how very cautiously we should proceed to deal with the question. These remarks are only made to support my earlier remarks; that is, that I cannot see that the Council will gain anything by accepting this motion. I trust that the proposer and seconder will be satisfied with the discussion, and that they will not endeavour to press their motion to a division. I also express the hope that later on a draft bill will be before the Council which can be carefully considered, amended or rejected as the full consideration of the Council considers. I can only say in conclusion that the Chamber of Commerce will gladly welcome any proposed form of registration which points to a possible and satisfactory settlement of a very difficult question, and speaking on behalf of the Committee of that Chamber I can only assure your Excellency and hon. members who brought forward the motion that it will receive every possible assistance from the Chamber of Commerce.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL—It is impossible, I take it, for this Council to pledge itself to anything in the shape of legislation by accepting a resolution such as this, because whether the legislation is for the purpose of making the registration of Chinese partnerships compulsory—and any legislation that is not compulsory cannot possibly be effective—whether any such legislation is desirable or not depends altogether upon the objects that legislation has in view and the means the measure would adopt to give effect to them. Now, what would be the object of registering partnerships? There can only be one or two. One to protect the creditor as against the debtor, or to protect, as my learned friend opposite seemed to think could be done, the debtor against the creditor. He suggests that the law of China be introduced into a British mercantile community such as this, by which apparently the persons who ought to be liable, the persons in faith of whose names credit is given to the firm, are according to that law only liable to the extent of the proportion of the interest which they possess in the firm. I take it that it would be difficult for the hon. members to persuade anybody that it was desirable for a British mercantile community to substitute any such law as that for the law already in existence. It would be impossible. The object of any such legislation must be either to protect the creditor or to give a certain protection to the debtor. We can free the person of the debtor to some extent, but we cannot protect the debtor against the creditor. It is the creditor who requires protection against the debtor. There is a certain kind of protection which my learned friend appears to have overlooked when considering this question. By the law of England there is such a thing as limiting partnerships. There is no Act of Parliament expressly limiting partnerships, but there has grown up a custom based on the decisions of judges that partners are limited in their liability. There are such things as sleeping partners. If any legislation that is brought forward to protect the debtor proceeds blindfold there is the greatest possible danger of doing wrong to the large body of persons known as sleeping partners. I venture to say there is hardly a business firm in Hongkong that does not pay out of its profits sums of money to widows and orphans and other persons who having at one time taken an active interest in the firm have now retired therefrom and whose names no longer appear *quo ad* third person but as former partners. This is one of the things well known in selling a goodwill. A partner retires, but instead of taking a lump sum paid down to him he takes a certain amount annually. He has no further liability for results, but if you require that partnerships should be registered, it means that this man will also have to be registered. His name will appear on the register and if he is made liable some one might say—You knew he was a sleeping partner? And the answer to that would be—

You are not entitled to say that to me. I saw his name on the register, and the register is the notice to the world that the man is a partner. By such legislation you would absolutely destroy the principle of the universally sleeping partner, you would dislocate the law of partnership in this Colony. It would be impossible to introduce any such change without creating great hardships and there would be no compensating advantages. I don't propose to go into detail to show how impracticable and impossible such legislation would be. The hon. member opposite recalls that this has been discussed years ago. I myself sat on a committee, and after considering the question in all its aspects I think the opinion was unanimous that nothing effective could be done. I agree with the hon. member representing the Chamber of Commerce that the only way to deal with this question is in the shape of a bill. If the hon. member on my left will bring forward a practicable scheme in the shape of a bill let him do it, and I will welcome it and assist him in every way I can. I read carefully the reports to which my friend refers, and among them a letter by Mr. Hallier, a former Queen's Counsel in this Colony. I commend the arguments of that gentleman to the attention of my friend when he is drafting this bill for the registration of partners.

The Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—I have seen it.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL—I trust my friend will be guided by it. My view is that this Council, this Government, should not pledge itself to any legislation the effect of which it does not know.

The Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—I have listened with very great interest to the observations of the hon. member who seconded, and also the hon. member representing the Chamber of Commerce and the Attorney General. As I said when I made my opening speech, my object was to invite discussion. I think hon. members will agree that that object has at all events been partially attained, although no doubt there will be more said on this important subject. If there had been a bill drafted, the first body to whom I would have sent a copy would have been to the Chamber of Commerce, which the Hon. Mr. Hewett represents, but it seemed to me desirable to ascertain the opinion of the Council upon this subject. I am glad to learn from what fell from the lips of the hon. member who represents the Chamber of Commerce that he was in agreement with the views held by the senior member representing the Chinese and myself that if such a measure could be devised it would be a very good thing. I accept the views of Mr. Hewett and the Attorney General that it would not be advantageous to proceed further with this motion, and that being so, with your Excellency's permission, I will withdraw it. I am glad to know that any bill which the hon. member opposite may draw up will receive his attention. I beg to withdraw the motion.

The Hon. Dr. HO KAI consenting, the motion was withdrawn.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL—If the hon. member should submit a draft bill to the Government, it would be referred to the Chamber of Commerce, to which, on such matters, the Government is always largely indebted.

QUESTIONS.

The Hon. Mr. POLLOCK asked the following questions, one being pro Mr. G. Stewart:—

1. Have the experiments in wood-paving proved sufficiently satisfactory to warrant an extension of this method of road-making being taken into consideration.

2. With reference to the leading article which appeared in the *South-China Morning Post* of the 19th April, 1906, will the Government state why the notification as to dead rats therein referred to was not promptly attended to by the Sanitary Authorities, and will the Government also state what steps are being taken to prevent the recurrence of such delays in future?

3. Will the Government consider the advisability of granting to those Civil Servants who are drawing their pay on a sterling basis the privilege of drawing half of their pay at the rate of 1s. 8d. to the dollar, or will the Government grant some other relief by way of compensation to such Civil Servants?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, in reply to No. 1, said—Though the experiments have not extend-

ed over a sufficiently long time to furnish reliable information as to the durability of wood paving in Hongkong, it is considered that a further and more extensive experiment would be justified, and it is proposed to provide in next year's estimates for paving Ice House Street with this material.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, in reply to No. 2, said—On receipt of the first notification a ratcatcher was instructed to visit the premises, but forgot to go. The second notification was sent by the principal clerk to the wrong Sanitary Inspector and delay resulted. Both the principal clerk and the Sanitary Inspector concerned have been reprimanded.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, in reply to No. 3, said—His Excellency the Governor has communicated with the Secretary of State on the subject.

MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY ACT.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the law relating to the property of married women, the object of which is to accord to married women in the Colony the like protection with regard to their property as is enjoyed by married women in England and elsewhere in the Empire.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and this was agreed to.

REGISTRATION OF DENTISTS.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to regulate the qualifications and to provide for the Registration of Dentists.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and this was agreed to.

SUMMARY OFFENCES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL—I beg to move that the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Summary Offences (Amendment) Ordinance, 1905, be now read a second time. The Council will observe from the memorandum attached to the bill that the proposed legislation is necessary because of the necessity of defining the meaning of the word place as used in the Ordinance of 1905. It is intended to confine the meaning of this expression public place as mentioned in sections 3 and 4 of the Ordinance of 1905 to the solicitation by prostitutes in a public place. This bill therefore intends it should only be for the purpose of sections three and four of the Summary Offences Ordinance that public place should have this meaning attached to it—any place, public or private, which is resorted to by prostitutes.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and this was agreed to.

On the motion of the ATTORNEY GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, the Council resolved itself into Committee to consider the bill.

On the Council resuming, His EXCELLENCY reported that the Bill had passed through committee without amendment.

AMENDMENT OF MAGISTRATES ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Magistrates Ordinance, 1890. He said—The reason of this Ordinance being brought before the Council is to be found in certain doubts exercising the minds of the magistrates as to their powers, and the object of the Bill is to remove these doubts. The principle is one, I think, which will commend itself to members. There is some doubt as to whether a magistrate has power to deal with a witness who has come before him voluntarily and who proves recalcitrant, either won't take the oath or having taken the oath won't answer the questions put to him. The point has been taken that under the ordinance a magistrate could only deal with a man who has been summoned or brought up on warrant. Some take that view and some take the other, and the object of the Bill is to make it quite clear that they have. The Bill repeals sub-section 4 of section 17 of the principal Ordinance providing that if any person comes before a magistrate he may be dealt with for recalcitrancy, and section three gives the magistrate power to deal summarily with persons who commit offences against the bankruptcy laws. At present a magistrate could not deal summarily with a person who committed an offence against the Bankruptcy Ordinance, such as a debtor who gets credit with-

out disclosing that he is a bankrupt, and it is to give the magistrate power to deal summarily with such offences that this Bill is introduced. The necessity arose through the omission on the part of the learned framers of the Ordinance No. 1 of 1845, by which the word magistrate was held to include within its meaning a Justice of the Peace. In 1897 a further Act was passed in which the word magistrate was confined to police magistrate. In 1900 the Registrar was authorised to make a compilation of the Acts, and was expressly forbidden to make any alteration in the substance thereof. In the Ordinance as compiled he left out the section of the original Ordinance by which originally a magistrate was held to include a Justice of the Peace. I take it that that was a mistake, because it was an omission which materially altered the Ordinance, which he had no power to do. The effect of this alteration was to deprive justices of their old-time jurisdiction to issue search warrants, etc. This omission was only discovered by one of our extremely good magistrates. I speak sincerely when I say we have good magistrates. My view is that it is still part of the Ordinance, for its compiler had no power to make any alteration as to substance or fact, but there comes the difficulty of the doubt in some magistrates' minds. The fact remains that this does not appear on the statute book, and to remedy that omission I move that the bill be read a second time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Council then went into Committee to consider the Bill in detail.

On the Council resuming, His EXCELLENCY reported that the Bill had passed through committee with one amendment.

BILL WITHDRAWN.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL—I move that the order relating to the second reading of the Lunatic Asylums Ordinance be discharged. I propose to submit to the Council another bill dealing with the same matter in another way. The Council agreed to the withdrawal of the Bill.

SUPREME COURT JURISDICTION.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL—I beg to move that the Bill entitled an Ordinance relating to the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court with respect to the care and commitment of the custody of the persons and estates of Lunatics be read a second time. This Ordinance is introduced at the instance of their Honours the Judges of the Supreme Court. We have an Ordinance which deals with the subject of the person and the property of lunatics in the Ordinance No. 3, I think, of 1876, the Imperial Enactments Extension Ordinance, which extended the Lunacy Act passed in England in 1853 to the Colony. The provisions of that Act coupled with the powers given in general terms, to the Supreme Court, under the Supreme Court Ordinance to control the persons and estates of lunatics is the law as it exists. In 1900 the Lunacy Act was passed and now at the suggestion of their Honours I propose to ask the Council to pass this Bill and adopt the latest Lunacy Act passed in England.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and this was agreed to.

The Council went into Committee.

On resuming,

His EXCELLENCY said—I have to report that the Bill passed through committee without amendment. The Council will be adjourned till Thursday, May 31st.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Council, the Colonial Secretary presiding, when the following votes were passed:—

LIGHTHOUSE CHARGES.

The GOVERNOR recommended the Council to vote a sum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) in aid of the vote, Harbour Master's Department, G.—Lighthouses, for the following items:—

Gap Rock Lighthouse, Other Charges	
Gunpowder Charges and Tubes for Fog	
Signalling Guns...	\$1,000
Warlan Island Lighthouse, Other Charges	
Gunpowder Charges and Tubes for	
Signalling Guns...	2,000
Total...	\$3,000

Total, \$3,000

EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES.

The GOVERNOR recommended the Council to vote a sum of five hundred dollars (\$500) in aid of the vote, Education, 4.—Department of Inspector of Schools, other charges, Visual Instruction Expenses.

PUBLIC WORKS EXTRAORDINARY.

The GOVERNOR recommended the Council to vote a sum of fifteen thousand two hundred dollars (\$15,200) in aid of the vote, Public Works Extraordinary, Communications Metallic Circuits, including New Route to North Point.

Mr. POLLOCK—I gather from the remarks of His Excellency that the \$12,200 was in connection with the vote which has been passed already. The first question to be considered is whether the Tramway Company are under any liability to this Council for this effect?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The question will be considered in due course after the metallic circuiting has been completed.

Mr. POLLOCK—What is this new route to North Point?

The HON DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—The reason for this is that previously the Government wires were carried on poles belonging to the Telegraph Company, by arrangement with that company, but when it was decided to establish metallic circuits these poles could not carry the additional wires required and it was, consequently arranged to establish a Government route independent of the Telegraph Company's.

LANGUAGE ALLOWANCE.

The GOVERNOR recommended the Council to vote a sum of six hundred dollars (\$600) in aid of the vote, Registrar General's Department—Other Charges, Language allowance to Mr. O. Clementi, Assistant General, who has passed the examination in the Pekingese Colloquial.

POST OFFICE EXPENSES.

The GOVERNOR recommended the Council to vote a sum of one hundred and twelve dollars (\$112) in aid of the vote, Post Office, Postal Agencies in China—Other Charges, Hankow, incidental expenses.

INFECTIOUS HOSPITALS EXPENDITURE.

The GOVERNOR recommended the Council to vote a sum of one thousand seven hundred and forty dollars (\$1,740) in aid of the vote, Medical Departments, for the following:—

Infectious Hospital.

Hospital Ha'k Hygia:—

Personal Emoluments.

Temporary Staff, for 3 months\$ 240

Other Charges.

Provisions, &c., 1,500

Total \$1,740

REFUNDS OF REVENUE.

The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of Sixteen thousand dollars (\$16,000) in aid of the vote—Miscellaneous Services, Refunds of Revenue.

POST CHARGES.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of Seventy dollars (\$70) in aid of the vote, Post Office, B.—Postal Agencies in China—Other Charges, Shanghai, allowance for attendance on Sunday.

LIGHTHOUSE CHARGES.

The GOVERNOR recommended the Council to vote a sum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) in aid of the vote, Harbour Master's Department, G.—Lighthouses, for the following items:—

Gap Rock Lighthouse, other charges.

Gunpowder charges and tubes for fog

signalling guns... .. \$1,000

Warlan Island Lighthouse, other charges.

Gunpowder charges and tubes for fog

signalling guns... .. 2,000

Total \$3,000

LAND REGISTRY OFFICE.

The GOVERNOR recommended the Council to vote a sum of Four hundred and eight dollars (\$408) in aid of the vote, Judicial and Legal Departments, D.—Land Registry Office—Other Charges, for New Territories, Co-veyance and Hire of Coolies.

A NATIVE CEMETERY.

The GOVERNOR recommended the Council to vote a sum of Four hundred and fifty dollars and sixty-six cents (\$450.66) in aid of the vote, Public Works Extraordinary, Resumption of Land for the Sai U Shek Cemetery, near Kowloon City.

FORMING STREETS.

The GOVERNOR recommends the Council to vote a sum of Forty-two thousand dollars (\$42,000) in aid of the vote, Public Works Extraordinary, 19, Forming and Kerbing Streets.

CONNAUGHT RECEPTION.

The GOVERNOR recommended the Council to vote a further sum of Four thousand four hundred and fifty-five dollars and fifty-nine cents (\$4,455.59) in aid of the vote, Miscellaneous Services, Connaught Reception.

TREASURY EXPENSES.

The GOVERNOR recommended the Council to vote a sum of One hundred and twenty dollars (\$120) in aid of the vote, Treasury, A.—Treasurer's Office—Other Charges, New Territory, Conveyance Allowance to Clerk and Shroff.

POSTAL AGENCIES IN CHINA.

The GOVERNOR recommended the Council to vote a sum of One thousand eight hundred taels (Taels 1,800) in aid of the vote, Post Office, B.—Postal Agencies in China, other charges, Shanghai, Rent of the British Post Office, Extension site from 1st July, 1905 to 31st December, 1906.

KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY.

The GOVERNOR recommended the Council to vote a sum of Three hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000) in aid of the vote Public Works Extraordinary, Kowloon-Canton Railway.

SUPREME COURT CHARGES.

The GOVERNOR recommended the Council to vote a sum of Six hundred and eight-five dollars (\$685) in aid of the vote, Judicial and Legal Departments, A.—Supreme Court, other Charges, Safe for Original Wills.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENTS.

The GOVERNOR recommended the Council to vote a sum of Three hundred and seventy-two dollars and thirty cents (\$372.30) in aid of the vote, Medical Departments—Other Charges, A.—Staff, Health Officer of Port, Repairs to Launch.

REVOTE.

The GOVERNOR recommended the Council to revote a sum of One hundred and seventy-two dollars and eighty cents (\$172.80 at 2s. 1d. = £18) in aid of the vote, Military Expenditure B.—Volunteers—Other Charges, Contribution towards Sergeant Major's Army Pension.

POSTAL AND OTHER CHARGES.

The GOVERNOR recommended the Council to vote a sum of Four hundred and fifty dollars (\$450) in aid of the vote, Post Office, B.—Postal Agencies in China—Other Charges, Shanghai, Rates and Taxes.

LOSS TO GERMAN MISSIONS.

THE LATE REV. S. SCHMIDT.

On the 16th May the funeral of the late Inspector of the Berlin Mission, the Rev. Sanberzweig-Schmidt, took place at the Protestant Cemetery, Happy Valley. A conference of the Berlin Mission having been convened, there was a large attendance of missionaries. The German Consul, members of the German community, and many others interested in mission work attended.

The Rev. Inspector Schmidt had been at Hongkong only a few months, since he completed a tour of inspection in the German mission field in South Africa. He had visited the missions in North China, and was at work in the Canton hinterland when he fell ill of dysentery, was brought to Hongkong, and died on May 14th.

In the early hours of the 16th instant Captain Lyang, of the s.s. *Tatshan*, was in Connaught Road for the purpose of hailing a sampan to take him out to his ship, when he was caught from behind and thrown to the ground. Then he realised that four or five ricksha coolies had attacked him. Evidently robbery was their object, for they proceeded to search him. They got \$200 in one pocket and were apparently satisfied, for they made off immediately. Had their search been more thorough they would have found \$150 in another pocket. Immediately he was released, he got up and reported the matter to the police, who are making inquiries but have not yet effected an arrest. Captain Lyang received several slight injuries to his face during the scuffle.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on May 15th at the Board Room. The Hon. Dr. F. Clark (president) presided, and there were also present—Hon. Dr. Pearce, M.O.H., Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin, Dr. Macfarlane, Mr. F. C. Badeley, Lieut.-Col. Sparkes, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Mr. H. Humphreys, Mr. Lau Chu-pak, Mr. Fung Wa-chun and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (secretary).

MARKET ACCOMMODATION AT QUARRY BAY.

With reference to the Board's recommendation that a market be erected at Quarry Bay, H.E. the Governor minuted that he was inclined to think the erection of this market was justified by the considerable and growing population in the neighbourhood.

The Hon. DIRECTOR of PUBLIC WORKS in a minute said a scheme for laying out the neighbourhood east of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's shipyard was being prepared, and the provision of a market would be considered in connection with it. He thought it would be advisable to ask the Sanitary Board to specify what accommodation should be provided.

The M.O.H. said he had consulted with the Hon. Registrar General on the matter, and they thought a market large enough to allow for a considerable increase of population at Quarry Bay should be provided.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by Hon. Mr. A. W. BREWIN, it was agreed to recommend that the market be erected.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF CROWN LANDS AND GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

The Secretary of the Board, in a letter to the Colonial Secretary, reported the resolution carried at a board meeting with regard to this matter. Continuing, he wrote—"I presume in the event of His Excellency's approval being obtained, it will only be necessary to issue a general order to the effect that the officers of the Sanitary Department are authorised to enter and inspect Government buildings and curtilages for the purpose of ascertaining the sanitary condition, cleanliness and good order thereof. The issue of such a general order would appear to be necessary, as although there is nothing contrary to such a procedure in the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, it has not been customary hitherto for officers of the Sanitary Department to enter and inspect Government buildings and curtilages. Section 4 of the above quoted Ordinance is the only section dealing with this matter." For further information, he attached a copy of the *Daily Press* report of the proceedings at which the resolution was carried.

The Colonial Secretary forwarded a copy of the resolution to the Attorney General, asking if there was any provision in Ordinance I of 1903 which would prevent the resolution being put into effect.

The Attorney-General replied:—I think not. Indeed I am inclined to think that Section 23 applies to Government property. You will observe that Section 4 exempts Government property from the provisions of the Ordinance, but only in so far as such provisions relate to "wells, the construction of buildings, and the carrying out of works". It would seem to follow that of the provisions of the Ordinance as relate to sanitation apply to all buildings without exception.

H. E. the Governor agreed that the resolution should be accepted, and that the P.C.M.O. be authorised to issue the orders he suggested.

The PRESIDENT's orders were that Inspectors be instructed to inspect all Government buildings in their districts once a week for nuisances.

The PRESIDENT said that instructions would be issued to the effect that no Government institutions should be inspected by the Board's officers.

Mr. HOOPER—Was there not any minute against that?

The PRESIDENT—I see none.

IMPERVIOUS DUSTBIN S.

Correspondence was submitted in which the P.C.M.O. recommended the provision of an impervious dustbin as a condition precedent to the granting of a licence for Chinese restaurants and eating houses.

The Hon. REGISTRAR GENERAL minuted: I do not think the Board approved of eating

houses being required to have impervious dustbins. Anyone who wishes to put a bench in a window and sell lemonade or tea has to take out an eating house licence, and I am sure from the course of the debate numbers would not have approved of such people being required to buy these expensive dustbins.

The PRESIDENT—The Board agreed that arrangements should be made departmentally for requiring the provision of impervious dustbins for eating houses. There is no question of expense involved, as it was pointed out at the meeting that an empty kerosene tin would comply with this condition.

The Council approved that this further condition should be endorsed on Chinese eating house and restaurant licences.

THE CENSUS.

The PRESIDENT said—Members of the Board will see that it has been arranged to take a census on June 30th of this year. His Excellency is of opinion that in view of the number of cases of plague occurring at present this would be an unwise time to take the census. The census has usually been taken hitherto in the early part of the year, but it could not be arranged this year owing to the earlier occurrence of China new year. I would suggest that the Board recommend the postponement of the taking of the census until November.

A motion that the Board recommend the Government to postpone the census to November was carried.

PLAGUE IN INDIA.

The Secretary to the Government of India forwarded a statement of the reported plague seizures and deaths in India during the week ending April 7th. The number of cases occurring in Bombay city, from the 1st to 15th April was 1,954, of which 1,733 were fatal.

Mr. HOOPER minuted—The percentage of deaths from plague relative to the number of cases seems much less than in Hongkong.

The PRESIDENT remarked that the Bombay rate was 89 per cent. and the Hongkong rate 94 per cent. The difference was not very great.

Mr. HOOPER—I thought it was greater.

A NEW PLAGUE HOSPITAL.

The M.O.H. wrote that the hospital committee had selected No. 63, Third Street as a plague hospital. This was a corner house and well enough lit and ventilated for the purpose. He suggested that the ground floor be used as the men's ward and the first floor as the women's ward, and that the attendants occupy the top floor so that they could cook in the top floor kitchen without danger of infective splashing from above.

Mr. HOOPER minuted—The idea is a good one, but I think an isolated building should be selected if possible.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—I am in favour of establishing such local hospitals. They will help to relieve the minds of the people and induce voluntary reports of plague cases. As a matter of fact, two years ago the Board recommended the establishment of these hospitals. That the inhabitants of the Saiyingpun district, though the majority of them are poor, willingly come forward to raise subscriptions to maintain a hospital for their own sick, evidently shows that they object to the forcible removal of their sick and the undue interference of the Sanitary authorities.

Mr. HEWITT—We should have more of these local hospitals.

The meeting agreed to the proposition on the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by Mr. LAU CHU-PAK.

OVERCROWDING.

The return relative to overcrowding showed that as the result of prosecutions 523 persons had been displaced.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—It would be interesting to know where the persons displaced have shifted.

MARKET REPORTS.

Mr. HOOPER referred to the market list appearing in the newspapers, relative to which the Board had appointed a committee to make certain inquiries. He noticed that a change had been made, the list, which previously bore the signature of the Market Inspector, being now unsigned. He would like to know who was responsible for that.

Dr. PEARSE replied that he had directed the Market Inspector not to sign the list sent to the newspapers pending the decision of the Board. The Board had considered the

matter, but he had received no authority to rescind those instructions, and so the practice was continued.

Mr. HOOPER said he regretted to hear the remarks of the Medical Officer of Health. I can only leave it to you, sir, or the Board, he continued to place what construction you like on these words, in view of the direct resolution of the Board appointing a select committee. What is the use of taking up the time of the select committee to report on the advisability or otherwise of the existing custom being continued, if an officer of the Board can, in the meantime, take it upon himself to give orders to discontinue the practice? I will not characterise such a proceeding.

Mr. BREWIN—Why not?

Mr. HOOPER—Because I think, Mr. Registrar General, as an officer of the Government you can find words to characterise it better than I can.

Dr. PEARSE—Mr. Hooper is mistaken in one remark. The instructions to the Inspector were given before the Board meeting at which the subject was discussed. I was ready to accept any instructions from the Board at that meeting when I reported what I had done. Mr. Hooper is undoubtedly mistaken if he thinks the instructions to discontinue signing the list were given after the Board had considered the question.

The PRESIDENT—If Mr. Hooper is content we may leave the whole question with the committee.

Mr. HOOPER—Under the circumstances I ask you to withdraw my name from the committee, as I am not prepared to give the time to sit on such a question which has already been acted on before I sat on the committee. I therefore hand you back the papers, sir, in connection therewith.

Mr. Hooper rose from his seat and walked to where the President sat and handed him the papers. This closed the incident.

The other business was unimportant.

SUPREME COURT.

Wednesday, May 16th

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

THE ALLEGED CONSPIRACY CASE.

The appeal from the decision of the Chief Justice (Sir Francis Piggott) in the case of the seven witnesses who were sentenced to three months' imprisonment by his Lordship for perjury in the hearing of the trial of an issue to determine whether Wong Ka-cheung was a partner of the Lai Hing Bank at the time of its bankruptcy was concluded, and their Lordships delivered judgment.

Mr. E. H. Sharp, K. C., and Mr. H. E. Pollock, K. C., instructed by Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton (of Messrs. Brutton and Hett) appeared for the appellants.

His Honour the Puisne Judge said: At the trial of an issue before the Chief Justice and a jury as to whether one Wong Ka-cheung was a partner or not in the Lai Hing Bank, the Chief Justice came to the opinion that the seven appellants and one other, Wong Tsz, deliberately perjured themselves, and acting as he conceived he was entitled to act under the provision of Ordinance 3 of 1873, section 31, he summarily sentenced them to three months' imprisonment without hard labour. Wong Tsz has disappeared and evaded the execution of such order, and I imagine his reappearance will depend on the result of these proceedings whether here or elsewhere. That committal took place on April 10th, 1906. On April 20th a motion was made for a *habeas corpus*, and I believe the motion was heard on April 24th and refused. And it is this refusal that is at present being appealed against. The learned Chief Justice delivered his decision at some length, as a number of points were raised. The notice of appeal asked for an order that the judgment, whereby it was adjudged that the writ of *habeas corpus* should be quashed, and whereby it was adjudged in review that the order dated April 10th whereby the appellants were summarily committed to prison for perjury be confirmed, may be

rescinded, and that the appellants may be released on the grounds that they were not informed by the Chief Justice what statements made by them respectively constituted the alleged perjury; (2) that before sentence was passed upon them an opportunity was not given to them of being heard in their own behalf or of showing cause why they should not be so committed. I think it most convenient now to dispose of the first point, namely, that the appellants had not been informed as to which of their statements constituted the alleged perjury. I think it clear that they had been and were perfectly aware of them. The sole issue before the jury was as to whether Wong Ka-cheung was a partner in the Lai Hing Bank or not. Their sole evidence was to the effect that he was, and the jury found that he was not. The Chief Justice found that in supporting the contention that he was a partner they had perjured themselves, which was the material point at issue. It may be that some of them did not go as far as others, but the material fact is that they gave evidence in support of some material fact composed of several minor instances, and as their evidence on that fact was found to be false, they were committed (be the decision right or wrong). I therefore think that the appellants fail on this point. The next point that the appellants before sentence had not an opportunity of being heard in their own behalf and of showing cause why they should not be committed, is, in my opinion, of more importance. In considering this point it is necessary to look at the section of the Ordinance itself, section 31. The section reads: "If in any cause, action or suit, civil or criminal, or in any proceeding connected therewith, it appears to the Court that any person examined as a witness upon oath or declaration, or if a Quaker upon affirmation, has committed wilful and corrupt perjury, etc., then in each and every such case it shall and may be lawful for the Court to direct a prosecution for perjury to be forthwith instituted against such person so falsely swearing, declaring, etc., in order that he may be punished according to law, or where such perjury is committed by any person examined as a witness in open Court as was the case here, it shall be lawful for the Court instead of directing such prosecution to be instituted as aforesaid, either to commit such witness as for a contempt of the Court to prison for any term not exceeding three months with or without hard labour, etc." Now the Court has two methods of proceeding, but in this particular case we have to deal with the second, and the question is whether the appellants have been legally dealt with under it. I think I had better state how this section has been always construed and acted on by the Courts in this Colony (though of course such construction may be wrong). They have considered that there have been two courses before them, first, the ordinary one of ordinary prosecution, which involves to a certain extent a new trial on the point of perjury, secondly, the Court has looked upon the alternative course as a more summary one, and one in which the judge if he has come to the conclusion that the witness has perjured himself on a point material to the issue, has power to deal with it at once in a summary way without all the formalities required in a prosecution. So far as my experience goes, the course has usually been that when a witness in the opinion of the judge is perjuring himself, is to make him repeat his statements so as to make sure he understands what he is saying, and at the conclusion of the case call him up and through the interpreters ask him if he has anything to say why he should not be sent to prison or fined. It has never, however, been understood that it was meant that he was to be allowed to re-open the case and call fresh witnesses, and in fact have a rehearing which might (as in the case under appeal) amount to a contradiction of the verdict of the jury. I may here mention that this point was dealt with by the Full Court of this Colony in April, 1897 (Sunder Singh's case). The judge there had committed for perjury without formally calling upon the men to make any statement. On the appeal the Full Court held that they were not entitled to what I have described as practically a new trial, and the appeal was dismissed; and that is the view taken by the learned Chief Justice in the present case. If the contention of the appellants, to which I

shall refer next, is correct, I cannot see the object of the second course provided by Ordinance, as it would certainly not be summary. The Counsel for the appellants of course contend that Sunder Singh's case was wrongly decided. The contention of the Counsel for the appellants on this point is based to a large extent on the words "as for a contempt of the Court" in the Ordinance, and they contend that the Court may either direct a prosecution or may deal with the case as a contempt, that is, that the witness may have a right to call fresh evidence to prove his truthfulness, which would in my opinion mean a rehearing, and which might mean a conflict with the decision already given whether by a judge or jury. One argument which was put forward in support of this contention was that in probably nine cases out of ten the witness would not avail himself of this alleged right, but that in the tenth (that is this case) he might. I think it unwell to discuss such an argument, as if it is right for one it is right for another, and it seems to infer that some witnesses might not be able to get justice in consequence of poverty. In support of their contention a number of cases were cited, but I may mention that the power conferred by the Ordinance is an exceptional one and one which does not exist in England (if I read the Ordinance rightly), and therefore the cases relied on are in my opinion based on a different state of the law. Here the judge makes up his mind on evidence already given that the witness is guilty of perjury, and acts accordingly, and it seems to me to be a curious thing if having made up his mind on evidence already before him he is then to proceed to take fresh evidence for the purpose of reversing his own decision. An appeal might lie on the ground that there was no evidence to justify a committal, or that evidence had been improperly excluded, but that appeal would be heard before the Full Court. In the cases under the Ordinance the witnesses have had their say and have therefore been heard. To refer very shortly to the cases quoted on behalf of the appellants, the following cases appear to have been decided on the grounds that there had been no evidence before the judge or other authority on which a conclusion could be come to: see *Capel v. Child*, 2 Grom and Jervis, 573; *Benn's case*, 6 Term Rep. 198; *Gaskins' case*, 8 Term Rep. 209; *Smith v. Reg.* 3 App. C. 624, *ex parte Kinning*, 16 L.J. Q.B., 257, and the case of *Capel v. Child* referred to above. *Pollard's case*, 2 P. C., 106, owing to the circumstances in connection with it is not an authority in this case, except on the general principle. *Bonaker v. Evans*, 16 Add. E.L.N.S., 171, was also referred to, but if I am right in my view of the Ordinance it is an authority against the appellants, as the local legislature has expressly given authority to dispense with the preliminary formalities required in an ordinary case of contempt in England. A point was taken in connection with the absent witness that in his absence this jurisdiction, if it existed, could not be exercised. It seems to me that under this Ordinance if a man who has given his evidence disappears and does not return, he has very good reasons for doing so, and that he can be dealt with in his absence. Again it was argued that the warrant of committal must be under the hand of the committing judge, and as this one was only signed by the Registrar it is bad. As to this argument I can only say that I do not propose to upset the universal practice of this Court until I have to. The only question left to consider is that part of the motion which asks that part of the judgment appealed from, which quashed the writ of *habeas corpus*, should be rescinded. The learned Chief Justice dealt with this point, and as I think it is purely a question of procedure, and considering that there is an appeal on other grounds, I do not consider it necessary to deal with that part of the case, or even if it were decided that the judgment was wrong on that point. Yet it would practically have little effect on the result of appeal so far as the appellants are concerned. I therefore will simply content myself by saying that I agree with the decision appealed from. The appeal should be dismissed with costs.

His Honour the Chief Justice—From the arguments addressed to the Full Court it appears to me that one part of my judgment in the Court below is open to misconstruction, as it seems to have led to the impression that

I was denying a principle which I certainly do not deny, but on the contrary admit to be fundamental to the administration of justice, even by its most summary methods. I think, therefore, it may be added to with advantage in one particular. No one would of course imagine that if a solitary witness in a case had committed perjury, the presiding judge would be right in summoning him before him, telling him simply that he had committed perjury, and without more ado committing him to prison. Obviously he should be told what statement it was that the judge considered to be false. In my former judgment I had in special view the statements of these eight witnesses, and it was with regard to those statements that I expressed the opinion, together with reasons for that opinion, that what I said to them at the trial was sufficient. I believed the whole story of the alleged partnership of Wong Ka-cheung in the Tai Hing Bank to have been concocted, and that these eight men contributed to the concoction in their several ways, speaking to certain facts which were, as I thought, and still think, false, and denying others which were as I thought and still think true. The evidence of these men was in my opinion a tissue of falsehood from beginning to end; and I think that what would obviously be the proper course in the case of an isolated though material fact was actually adopted in this case, though it had necessarily to be adapted to the circumstances of this case. For the reasons already given I think that the only and the proper way of sentencing these men was to say what I did say, which was interpreted to them, and that the only meaning which could be given to those words was this: "I disbelieve every material fact bearing on the existence of the partnership which you have come here to establish and to which you have sworn"; and I have very little doubt that that meaning conveyed itself quite clearly to their minds. If this involves (which I do not think in any way) a modification of my former judgment, let it be so. But while I admit that a man has a clear right to be told in what his offence consists, I cannot admit for a moment that the reason for telling the witness in what his perjury consists is the one for which the learned counsel has argued, and that the necessary consequence is that he may call witnesses, and that there should be a regular hearing and inquiry into the question whether he had committed perjury. If such a hearing and inquiry is in the opinion of the judge necessary, he can proceed under the alternative course indicated under the section and direct a prosecution for perjury to be instituted. As to this, I have nothing to add to what I have already said. With regard to the question which the Full Court suggested in *Sunder Singh's* case should be put to the prisoner, whether he has anything to say why he should not be sentenced, it is obvious that the Court did not mean that it should be put as it is put in capital cases in order that the prisoner may move in arrest of judgment. It seems to have been a suggestion that in these cases the judge should adopt what is, I believe, the practice of some judges in all cases, to put to the prisoner what is not much more than a conventional formula which when put is practically without meaning and often induces the prisoner to re-state what has already been said in his defence. The Court certainly never intended to suggest that the consequence of putting the question would be the admission of further evidence, and the further inquiry such as has been argued to be necessary in this case. There is another question as to which I am glad to have heard further argument, for it is undoubtedly important, and is not free from difficulty. What is the meaning of the expression to commit the witness "as for a contempt of Court"? The argument is that these words mean that the witness is to be committed with the same forms and procedure as if the offence were contempt of Court and further, that as the Judicial Committee reported in *Pollard's* case that in the case of contempt "the specific offence charged is to be distinctly stated and an opportunity of answering given", so here the perjury is to be specifically stated, and an opportunity of answering the charge is to be given. If, therefore, the words do mean what it is alleged they mean, the argument as to the necessity of further evidence being taken

and the new inquiry held finds its justification. The judgment of Lord Brougham in *Long Wellesley's* case (2 R. and M. at p. 684) contains an interesting passage which had some bearing on this question. The Lord Chancellor was discussing the, I believe, disused practice of the Court in connection with the offence known as prevarication. He said: "If the prevarication amounts to all that moral perjury can reach—unless it be upon a point material to the issue to be tried—it is not perjury in law. What do the Courts when that foul crime is committed in their face? They do not order the party to be indicted for perjury—because they know that he must then escape upon a trial, but they order him to stand committed for his prevarication. In what form, and under what name? "For a contempt of Court by prevaricating upon his oath." It is clear that the Court judged of the prevarication then and there, and sentenced the prevaricator summarily. If *Pollard's* case had introduced a new principle or upset a previous practice, then this old procedure would have no bearing upon the present question. But the utmost that can be said in this connection is that it may have settled what was unsettled before. But putting on one side the analogy of this old procedure with the procedure specially created in this Colony, the expression "for a contempt of the Court by prevaricating on his oath" bears a curious resemblance to the words now under discussion. I think the reference to contempt of Court is used dramatically by way of analogy, and not of strict reference; and after giving the matter renewed consideration I think that it is also used in that way in the section of Ordinance 3 of 1873. For otherwise we get to this result—Summary jurisdiction is conferred on the Court but its exercise is fettered by conditions which make it cease to be summary. As to the intention of the legislature that the jurisdiction is to be summary, I have no doubt whatever. I cannot accept the argument that the power of committing being alternative to the power to direct a prosecution for perjury, therefore it is to be exercised in accordance with the ordinary principles of a trial for perjury: for then it would cease to be alternative, but mean to all intents and purposes the same thing. This does not in the least interfere with the facts, but the summary is only to be exercised in cases where an indictment for perjury would lie, and that the conviction amounts to a conviction for perjury: for it is the manifest duty of the judge before committing to be satisfied that all the ingredients of the crime of perjury are present. One new case was cited, *Bonaker v. Evans* (16 A. and E. at page 171), and much stress was laid upon one sentence in the judgment. The case must be added to the series of cases dealt with in my former judgment in which punishments have been meted out, and afterwards quashed because a proper opportunity had not been given to the alleged delinquent of refuting a charge. The case obviously refers to a refutation of the facts on which the charge is based. It is, I think, curious that no case seems to have occurred, or at least was referred to, in which a refutation of the interpretation of the law was contemplated. But it is obvious that the principle of these cases must be extended to answering the charge on a point of law: as that the alleged offence does not fall within the statute under which the jurisdiction has been exercised. Baron Parke stated the law thus, "No proposition can be more clearly established than that a man cannot incur loss of liberty or property for an offence by a judicial proceeding until he has had a fair opportunity of answering the charge against him, unless indeed the legislature has expressly or impliedly given an authority to act without that necessary preliminary." I have already intimated my opinion that the legislature in this case, by investing the Court with summary powers of punishment, has impliedly given an authority to act without the necessary preliminary of giving the witness an opportunity of answering the charge against him by calling witnesses. Both the determination of the question of law and the question of fact are included in the discretion given to the judge: for the law is patent; it is on the judge's notes, and the interpretation of the law rests also with the judge. Stress was laid on the use of the words "if it appears to the Court"

and it was said that it cannot "appear to the Court" until the facts had been established, and this they cannot be until the party charged has been heard. There is no analogy between the use of these words in this section and their use in the statute discussed in *Capel v. Child*, unless the point be raised that the words held to be perjury have not been spoken; that is, that the judge's notes are wrong. If this were so there would be another remedy altogether. All this is quite different from the suggestion that the witness should be allowed to prove that the facts are true. With regard to the question of *habeas corpus*, I have only this to add to what I have already said:—It was admitted that on the return to the writ the Court will inquire not into the form of the warrant, but also into the legality of the commitment, a principle which shows of itself the reason why a *habeas corpus* will not issue to a superior Court. The question of the signature to the warrant was again argued. I have only this to add: that the form adopted by the Court in these cases is identical with the form given in the schedule to the Bankruptcy Ordinance for a warrant of commitment of the debtor: and that the warrants issued under the Code of Civil Procedure for the arrest of absconding debtors are also signed or witnessed by the Registrar. I believe this to be the right and convenient practice, the dictum of Hawkins to the contrary notwithstanding.

Mr. Sharp—These men are out on bail until the 4th instant. I would apply to your Lordships for an extension of the time.

The Chief Justice—You have had a full month.

Mr. Sharp—But your Lordship cannot say we knew you were going to decide against us. We have instructions to proceed, but cannot get the papers through under a week. We are assuming at present that we shall have to get your Lordships' leave to appeal, and would ask that the date be extended and we will apply within that time.

The Chief Justice—I have discussed the matter with my learned friend, and want to say this. I should like it to be clearly understood for future cases that I see very little connection between the necessity for the stay of execution and consideration of the question whether an appeal is to be made to the Privy Council. In this case, as counsel stated that they were going to appeal, we act on that statement and extend the time for a fortnight.

FOUNDERING OF THE S.S. "CHUKONG."

A Marine Court was held at the Harbour Office on May 14 to inquire into the circumstances connected with the foundering of the s.s. *Chukong* (Captain Bright) at Breaker Point on April 28th. The Court was composed of Hon. Captain L. A. W. Barnes-Lawrence, R.N. (president), Lieut. C. K. McCallum, R.N., H. M. S. *Tamar*, Captain W. Dawson, master of the British steamer *Tartar*, Captain P. M. Brooke Lake, master of the British steamer *Laisang*, and Captain W. F. Farmer, master of the British steamer *Powhatan*.

The Governor's warrant constituting the Court was read by the President, also a letter from the Wing On S.S. Co., owners of the s.s. *Chukong*, with regard to the wreck.

P. Rodrigues was the first witness. He said he was fourth clerk in Harbour Office, and signed the last clearance of the s.s. *Chukong*, of which he produced the counterfoil.

Bertram Butter, chief engineer of the s.s. *Chukong*, said that vessel left Hongkong on April 26th about 6.30 p.m. They had fine weather and a smooth sea until 5.30 p.m. the next evening, when they experienced a strong north-east wind off Swatow, which brought up a fairly heavy sea. At 8.30 p.m. the engines were slowed down; about that time the Captain went to witness' room and told him that he intended to go slow till the morning. The ship was pitching and rolling a great deal, but it did not strike him as being out of the way. He could not say whether it was unusual for the vessel, as it was his first trip in her. He went to bed about 8 p.m. and was called about 5 a.m. on the following morning by the Chief Officer, who said they were in danger. When witness got up he noticed the vessel had rather a heavy list to port. He ran down to

the engine-room and found everything all right; the telegraph of the port engine was at full astern, and that of the starboard engine full speed ahead. Witness then went up to the bridge, and the Captain told him they were in the trough of the sea, broadside on, and he wanted to get her head round and run before it. They tried to run under those conditions until 5.30 a.m., but could not get any weigh on the ship. All the time her list to port was increasing, until finally they could not work the starboard engine, as the injection was out of water, and they could not get any water through the condenser. Witness then went and reported to the Captain that they could not do any more in the engine-room, and sent all the men on deck. The list to port then gradually increased until the vessel turned over at about 5.45 a.m. Just previous to the vessel turning over, the boatswain launched the lifeboat; witness did not see it launched, and did not know it was launched at the time. All the Europeans were on the bridge when the vessel took her final list. They were fully dressed, but did not have any lifebelts. He saw some of the Chinese with belts on, but was unable to get any. They all endeavoured to get one for Mrs. Service. There was supposed to be one in his cabin, but he could not get into it. When the ship was level with the water witness jumped off the side. After a few minutes in the water he was picked up by the lifeboat. By the time he was able to look round they were some distance from the ship, and it was useless trying to get back on account of the heavy sea. They wished to get back with the object of picking up any survivors. They landed at Breaker Point between 12.30 and 1 p.m., and the Consul at Swatow took them in charge. Besides witness, there were eleven Chinese in the lifeboat. Two other men were picked up by a German steamer; they escaped from the ship on a light raft; one was the second engineer and the other a fireman, who arrived in Hongkong by the s.s. *Haimun* six days after the *Chukong* foundered.

By the President—From the time you turned in till the time you turned out again at 5 a.m., who was in charge of the engine room?—The second engineer from eight till twelve, the third engineer from twelve till four; then I should have been called, but I think the third called the second instead. I asked the second why I wasn't called and he said he forgot, or something like that.

With regard to the pumping arrangements, were these all right?—I consider they were satisfactory.

When you went down to the engine-room at five o'clock, was there any water there?—No. There was none below the 'tween decks. Between 5 and 5.30 a.m. the captain informed me that there was only three inches of water in the main hold.

Did you observe this water on the 'tween decks?—I did later on, because it came into the engine-room.

When you went to look at the 'tween decks, what did you see?—I noticed water coming into the engine-room, and through the port bunker into the stokehole. The water entered the engine-room through the door from the main deck, which I closed.

Continuing, witness said he went and looked at the main deck, on which there was from three to four feet of water. The chief officer had informed the Captain of this fact. Witness knew of no means by which this water could be freed from the deck. There were cargo ports on the vessel about five feet square, but he did not know how they were secured. There were two hatchways on the deck; one forward and one aft. The ship's cargo consisted of 1,217 bags of rice, and there was about 25 tons of coal in the after hold. He did not see the cargo in the hold, but did not think it would shift with the heavy list of the vessel. The water may have got on the main deck through something going wrong with the ports. Had the vessel been on an even keel, it could have been run out through the scuppers.

By Captain Dawson—The speed of the engines was altered during the time witness was in the engine-room. He noticed the crew trying to get an awning up to bring the vessel's nose round. When the *Chukong* was loaded, her scuppers would be three or four feet above the water.

By Captain Lake—The vessel did not appear to be shipping heavy seas. No oil bags were used on the water.

Kam Wing, carpenter of the *Chukong*, said it was his duty to see that the hatchways and ports were properly closed when the vessel went to sea. There were two ports on each side of the ship, which were secured by iron covers. The water got on to the main deck through these covers not being closed properly. He did not tell anybody before the steamer left that he was unable to close them. Witness did not see any water coming through the ports; he thought it got on the deck through the ash shoots, which were not secured at all, as he could not find any covers for them. In securing the ports witness did not use any white lead or tallow to make them fit properly. He had been carpenter of a ship for about eight months prior to his appointment on the *Chukong*.

After tiffin the boatswain of the *Chukong* was called. Kam Yuk stated that he was on deck about half an hour before the ship went down. On the evening before the wreck, when he went to bed there was a light wind blowing when he awoke at five o'clock on the following morning the wind was blowing strongly, and the sea was rough. When he appeared on deck in the morning he got the sampans (lifeboats) ready, as he saw there was danger. When the vessel took a list to port, one of the lifeboats floated in the water, while one was broken. He put the plugs in the lifeboats when he got them ready. On the night before the wreck, witness furled the ship's awning. When the vessel was foundering he was told by the Chief Officer to spread out an awning on the starboard side.

By Captain Dawson—When witness appeared on deck at five o'clock in the morning, the ship was only heeling over a little.

By Captain Lake—He did not know the ship's draft when she left Hongkong.

By the President—There was water on the lower deck when he went on the upper deck in the morning. This water got in through the ash shoots, which were not secured. Witness told the crew to remove the water with buckets.

The secretary of the Wing On Steamship Co. said the *Chukong* was bought a few years ago to run between the West River and Hongkong. When she left Hongkong for Amoy on her last trip she was chartered for six months to run between Amoy and Chinchin. Only the captain and the second engineer had been in the ship before; the remainder of the crew were all new hands. The vessel was insured with the Union Commercial Insurance Co. for \$61,000 a few days before she left on the voyage. The cargo was also insured for \$7,500, the insurance taken out being an ordinary risk.

By Lieut. McCallum—The Captain of the *Chukong* attended to the special fittings of the vessel for the voyage to Amoy.

Chow Tim, second engineer of the *Chukong*, said he had been in that vessel for 22 months. The ash shoot on the starboard side of the main deck was moveable, but the one on the port side was a fixture, and there was no proper cover for it to prevent the water entering the deck.

The President read the finding of the Court which was that the British ship *Chukong* official number 109,865, of Hongkong, of which William Bright was master, the number of whose certificate was 022,623, left Hongkong about 6.30 p.m. on April 20th, bound for Amoy. She carried a crew of 26 all told, 40 tons of bunker coal and a cargo of 150 tons of rice. The *Chukong* was a steel vessel of 286 register tonnage. She was built in 1899 at Nagasaki, Japan, and had two decks and four bulkheads. Her engines were inverted triple expansion, two in number, and she had one steel boiler. It appeared from the evidence before the Court that the *Chukong* when off Swatow on the evening of April 27th experienced a strong north-easterly monsoon, with a rising sea, which necessitated at about 8.30 p.m. the slowing down of the engines. The force of the wind and sea increased to such an extent that by 5 a.m. on the following morning the amount of water shipped caused a considerable list to port. As this list increased, the starboard propeller raced to such an extent that it was practically useless, and the port propeller not having sufficient power to control her movements, the vessel became unmanageable, and at about 5.45 a.m. on April 28th foundered. The only boat able to be used was one on the port quarter, and by its means and that of a raft—one of four

carried—fourteen of the crew were saved, all Chinese with the exception of the Chief Engineer, Mr. Rutter. After carefully considering the evidence the Court finds difficulty in forming an opinion as to the exact cause of the casualty, but it appears fairly conclusive that water found its way between decks, due to insufficient protection from the heavy beam seas experienced, and that this fact combined with a possible shifting of the cargo, affected the ship's stability and would account for her loss.

GOVERNMENT LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

The report of the medical officer in charge of the Government Lunatic Asylums states:—

The admissions during the year numbered 160—118 being males and 42 females. This number is very slightly below that of the previous year—166, and practically the number has been constant for the past three years.

The following are the admissions for the past 7 years:—

1899	78
1900	109
1901	80
1902	120
1903	155
1904	166
1905	160

The total number of cases under treatment during the year amounted to 177, of whom 148 were discharged on recovery or repatriated, and 7 died, leaving a total of 23 cases under treatment on the last day of the year.

Owing to the system of repatriation in force it is extremely difficult to calculate the recovery-rate in figures, as we unfortunately are unable to keep the native patients under observation for any length of time. It is, however, as well as one can make out, somewhat low.

NATURE OF DISEASES.

These were of the usual nature. The more acute diseases, namely, those which usually give greater hopes of recovery, such as acute mania and acute melancholia are few in number. The cases of acute mania, with the exception of one singularly enough, occurred among the Chinese, whose mentality is equilibrated on a very stable and stolid basis. This variety of mental disease is generally caused by, or at any rate, accompanies the rush and turmoil of existence when the senses have to be keen and the emotions are highly strung and the intellectuality is sharpened. Evidence of this is seen in the admission returns of the mental institutions in Western countries. With the well-known mental characteristics of the average Chinese, however, especially their strong will-power and self-control, we do not expect these acute mental disorders. Rather, they drift, when the mind becomes affected and unhinged, into chronic conditions of alienation, such as chronic mania and melancholia and dementia—such states as seem scarcely ever to readjust themselves or even to approach the normal.

Fourteen cases were admitted suffering from delusional insanity, a condition, that is to say, where the patient retains strong active and fixed delusions but is free from manifestations of mania or melancholia. Sometimes, as in one case here, this may pass into a condition of acute delirious mania, but on the other hand, and perhaps more usually, it terminates in a condition of dementia.

Cases of alcoholic insanity bulk largely among the admissions; these I will refer to in the next paragraph.

On reference to table quoted it will be seen that 33 males and 1 female were admitted suffering from alcoholism, that is, from the direct result of the abuse of alcohol—a percentage of 28 among the males on the number of mental cases admitted. Apart from these cases I was able to trace clearly, in many of the cases of chronic mania, melancholia and delusional insanity among the women as well as among the men, the effect of alcohol as a causative factor. Altogether the misuse and abuse of alcohol may be considered the principal, and perhaps the leading, factor in the production of mental derangements, especially among the outlanders in this Colony. The type of disease produced varies from cases of delirium tremens too severe to be fit for treatment in the wards of a general hospital to typical cases of alcoholic insanity. It will be noticed that England,

Scotland and China contribute each a fifth of the cases, and Ireland and India about a tenth. The reason for this excessive indulgence in alcohol which so often leads to such disastrous results in persons of unstable mental equilibrium is perhaps not very difficult to seek: for it is an undisputed fact that the abuse of alcohol is common in this Colony especially among the wage-earning classes and a certain section of sea-faring folk. I may mention incidentally that I have seen more cases of alcoholic insanity and more cases of excessive alcoholic indulgence during my short period of service in this Colony than I have seen in a longer period of service in another Colony. The reason then most generally assigned is that the climate here is enervating and that in consequence the system requires bracing up. This idea combined with the well-known camaraderie among a set of men earning a precarious livelihood, often out of work, always isolated and bereft of home ties, must lead to excessive alcoholic indulgence and this in its turn surely leads to mental derangement. It cannot be too strongly insisted upon that if the climate is bad the means adopted to counteract its effects are worse and but augment its injurious effects, if any. Total abstainers and moderate drinkers, that is, those that drink with discretion, come off best.

DEATHS.

These amounted to 7—of whom 6 were male and one female, giving a percentage on cases treated among the males just under 4 per cent. and among the women just over 2 per cent.

OCCUPATION OF PATIENTS.

The occupation of those under treatment during the year is stated in Table III. as far as ascertainable.

It is a great pity that the patients, both Europeans and Chinese, display a strong disinclination to work or to keep themselves occupied in some way that would distract their thoughts and take them out of themselves. Work and occupation as a means of treatment are well recognised in all English Asylums and have been found effective in ameliorating the mental condition of such as are able to undertake the one or the other. Our resources in this respect are limited, but we find European patients are particularly intractable. It is all we can do to induce the native patients to undertake a little gardening from time to time.

CANTON

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

May 12th

NEW LOTTERY FOR CANTON.

Some time ago two merchants named Cheong and Leong respectively petitioned the Lin Hau Kuk applying for a monopoly for a new lottery to be called the Yuen Fung Lottery. They offered a royalty of \$48,000 per annum. Yesterday the Lin Hau Kuk informed them that their request was granted. A sum of \$12,000 was immediately deposited with the authorities.

NEW POLICE STATIONS.

Vast improvements have been made of late in the police department. Buildings in semi-foreign style are being erected to replace the old wooden temporary structures, and the force is gradually being trained into shape. The streets are well guarded, and rowdiness is less prevalent, as the policemen do their duty fairly well.

THE FLOODS SUBSIDE.

There has been no rain for the last three days and the floods have now subsided. This year's crop of peaches and liches will nevertheless be considerably under the average both in quality and quantity.

May 14th.

THEATRE AND SCHOOL.

A certain merchant has memorialized Viceroy Shum offering a royalty of \$13,000 per annum for the privilege to build a theatre on a portion of the site previously occupied by the Cheung Shan temple (which was confiscated by the Viceroy). The royalty, it is suggested, may be applied for educational purposes. It is reported that the Viceroy has granted the privilege, subject to his approval of the plans and regulations of the theatre.

TOURISTS' DILEMMA.

Several well known residents of Hongkong found themselves in an awkward predicament the other day. They were in the city shopping, buying curios. They were on foot. When they thought of returning, they found that their return had been cut off by the flood. No chairs were to be found and the only means offered them to cross the flooded streets was to climb on the backs of coolies. Even this was a delicate task, as two of them weighed over two hundred pounds each. They finally had to wade through to return to the Shameen.

THE WEATHER.

The rains have ceased at last, and we have been having sunshine for the last three days. Within twelve hours the thermometer has risen from 72 to 88. The Chinese anticipate a hot summer, and according to the sample provided within the last three days they should be right.

May 15th.

A CANTON FATALITY.

A house in Han Lan Fong inside the walled city collapsed at eight o'clock yesterday morning. The premises were occupied by a family surnamed Li. Li's wife and his four children were all buried under the debris and killed.

THE GAMBLING GROOM STORY.

The groom who sold his master's horse to a Bannerman, and pawned the saddle managed to win a hundred dollars at fautan, and went and bought the pony and saddle back, and has taken them to his master. In consideration of his pluck the master simply admonished him. [So a good story ends; but from whom did he re-purchase the pony?—ED.]

WHARF LEASE.

It is reported that a certain Ho Foo-nin leased the a.s. *Chukong's* wharf from the Chinese Government some four years ago. It was distinctly stipulated in the lease that the lessee should not sublet the wharf to any foreigners or admit any foreigners into partnership with him. The wharf is now in foreign hands, and the lessee is being prosecuted.

EDUCATION NOTES.

Candidates to the number of 192 have passed the recent examination and will be admitted into the new college as cadets to be trained as expectant officials in the civil service. Amongst those who passed, 36 were officials, 74 numbers of the gentry (where training will be paid for by Government), and 82 self-supporting students. —Yesterday Viceroy Shum received an Imperial Edict appointing Yu Sik-min, formerly literary chancellor of the Kwangtung Province, Inspector General of all the Colleges in Kwangtung. In the afternoon H.E. Viceroy Shum called personally at Yu's yamen to offer congratulations.

MACAO.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

May 14th.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT.

After a good deal of patient waiting the inhabitants of this city were favoured with this luminant on Thursday last. So far the small incandescent lamps are working satisfactorily, but I cannot say anything of the larger ones, which are not yet working.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

I am glad to be able to report that so far the public health of this city is good, and now with the advent of bright sunny days there is every hope that this state of things will continue. It is true we had a few cases of plague here, but they were imported ones, and I have reasons to believe that we will not be visited by a plague epidemic this season.

THE CANTON-MACAO LINE.

The China Merchants' S. N. Co. have withdrawn their steamer *Kiang-tung* from this run. There is ample field now for an enterprising syndicate to run a steamer on this line on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The Steamboat Co's steamer *Lung-shan* leaves here on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

ATTEMPTED GAOL-BREAKING AT SHANGHAI.

ORGANISED RISING OF PRISONERS.

WARDERS SERIOUSLY INJURED.

The following are extracts from the *N.-C. Daily News* account of the occurrence reported in our special telegrams at the time:—

A most determined attempt to escape from prison was made by the Chinese convicts at the Ward Road gaol on May 4th and as a result two Chinese were shot dead, one other died subsequently from his wounds, and several persons were more or less seriously injured. [Two more have died.]

Between two and three o'clock an organised attempt to escape was made by a gang of the prisoners. By some means they obtained the sword of an Indian warder and then tried to break out. The alarm was given immediately and a severe tussle ensued, in which a notorious criminal, an associate of Vah Ka-der, and another prisoner were shot dead and several were injured. The head gaoler, Mr. W. D. Blennerhassett, received a sword cut over the right side of his head, and another sword cut on his left leg between the thigh and knee and had to be removed to the Victoria Nursing Home, while two Indian warders were badly injured and had to be sent to hospital. The attempt to escape was, fortunately, prevented by the brave stand of the gaolers and warders, who suppressed the outbreak with commendable promptitude, although they suffered in so doing. There can be no doubt that the outbreak was a premeditated one. Some twelve to fifteen convicts were at work making boots in a tailor's shop and included in the gang was Vah Mao-mao, the associate and brother of the notorious outlaw Vah Kah-der. These men were working under the surveillance of an Indian warder, who was armed as usual with a sword. Some time between 2 and 3 p.m. Vah Mao-mao, who was undergoing a twenty-years' sentence, suddenly sprang up, and with a shoemaker's knife in his hands leapt at the warder and cut him across the throat, inflicting a dangerous wound. Thereupon the other convicts rose up and seizing tools, attacked the warder. One of them drew the latter's sword and struck him with it. The Indian turned and fled down the steps to the lower shop, and in his flight (judging by the wounds on the back of his head) must have been struck with the sword two or three times. He got through the door to the shop underneath and it was immediately closed behind him by another warder. Led by Vah Mao, the excited gang charged the door and with hammers soon removed the obstacle. They again attacked the warders and by this time several other Indians joined in the mêlée. The whistles of the warders gave the alarm, and the whole of the gaol staff made for the scene, the Europeans armed with revolvers. The head gaoler, Mr. W. D. Blennerhassett, went round to the east side of the matting shop and there he was immediately attacked by a gang of men who had presumably been engaged in making coir mats. By this time the convicts, howling and yelling, were rushing about the compound with all kinds of working tools in their hands, and pieces of wood, including the bamboo poles used for beating the matting. The head gaoler was being pressed hard when an Indian warder rushed to his assistance and in warding off a blow from a hammer, which was directed at the head of Mr. Blennerhassett, had his sword (which is by no means a plaything) broken off six inches from the hilt. It was Vah Mao-mao who delivered this blow, but it seems to have been his last crime, for in the general fight he was shot dead about this time. The assistant gaoler, Mr. Weatherhead, seeing how serious matters were becoming, immediately opened the arms and ammunition store, and was for some time engaged serving out carbines and ammunition to the warders. From all appearances, those in charge of the gaol must have thought that the whole of the convicts who were on the premises were participating in the attempt to rid themselves of their keepers. Mr. Blennerhassett by this time had received a staggering blow on the right side of the head, which laid it

bare to the bone, and also a slash with some sharp instrument just below the left thigh. Owing to the bravery of the Indian staff, he was enabled to retreat to one of the offices in a fainting condition. He recovered quickly and returned to the compound. While one lot of convicts were attacking the gaoler and Mr. Weatherhead, a separate gang attacked the warden in charge of the ironworks.

The general encounter seems to have taken place in the compound, as when the alarm was given Mr. Weatherhead rushed out to the matting shop door, where he was met by a prisoner with the sword of the warden who had been first attacked, and others with stone-masons' hammers. The Indians were defending the gate when the Europeans ran there to make sure that no-one could escape. The police at Wayside Station must have heard the reports of fire-arms before they were communicated with, and the small staff of this station were smartly upon the scene of the affray. The general fracas lasted nearly half-an-hour and one man, besides Vah Mao-mao, was shot dead on the spot and several others wounded, three so badly that it is reported that amputation of limbs may be necessary.

With the assistance of the police, the foreign gaolers were able to get the various gangs of convicts back into their cells. The main fighting undoubtedly took place round the matting shop in the compound, but the difficulty of the situation can be understood when we state that it was impossible for the defenders to concentrate their efforts, as all the convicts seemed to be trying to escape, and were so rushing about that some of the defenders were out off in their endeavours to prevent this. There is one redeeming feature about the whole affair and that is, that it was proved beyond all question that the Indians were brave and loyal. At great risk to themselves, they not only fought to prevent escapes, but did so shoulder to shoulder with the Europeans, and in more than one case dashed in to rescue, when it might have been reasonably expected that they had sufficient to do to keep themselves from being seriously if not mortally injured. The Europeans, too, bore themselves excellently; beside the head gaoler the only other one badly injured was Mr. Anderson, who had his left shoulder clashed about with a knife. So far as we can ascertain besides those mentioned the other European on duty was Mr. Sims.

At the time of the outbreak there were over ninety convicts out at work on the roads in charge of warders, and the time of the attempt to break out was well-chosen.

A large mob gathered outside the gaol during the trouble, but the strong force of police kept them back.

RUSSIA IN THE FAR EAST.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT)

St. Petersburg, April 7th.

The new condition of things is making Russia and Japan now display a great deal of activity in north-eastern Siberia, a country which, had Russia won the late war, would have lain waste and unexplored for centuries to come, for the Japanese would have been afraid to enter it and the Russians would have had plenty of better land to exploit. The Japanese are said to be about to send commercial expeditions to examine the Siberian coast, but Mr. Motono refuses to return a definite answer on this point, saying that his Legation is "not yet established". The Russians are soon sending two expeditions to Kamchatka. One, an overland expedition, is financed by one of the merchant princes of Moscow, the other which is headed by a well-known explorer called Schmidt, will go by sea along the northern coast of Siberia and will spend several years on the trip. Some of the best scientists in Russia will accompany these expeditions, and Mr. Schmidt will see if it is at all possible for Russia, by charting the coast and establishing several coaling stations, to send war-ships or transports to the Far East by the northern route.

Meanwhile Russia seems resolved to do all she can to construct the Amur railway, which will enable her to dispense if necessary with the Chinese-Eastern Railway, and she seems determined to construct it with Russian money, although it is hard to say where that money will come from. A French traveller, M. de

Lobel, lately came here with a scheme for the construction of a railway from the centre of Siberia to Behring Strait, the idea of the American syndicate which he represents being to run a tunnel under the Strait and continue the railway through Alaska so that one could if necessary travel by land from Paris to Washington. The syndicate wants the exclusive right to exploit the land and the minerals contained in the land for a distance of twelve kilometres on each side of railway. That right of exclusive exploitation would cease at the end of ninety years and the Russian Government would have the right to buy the line thirty years after the beginning of the exploitation. Most of the workmen would be Russian.

The Imperial Council, the Railway Department and all the newspapers are against this scheme, however, being convinced that it would lead to complications with the nation which had advanced the money for the line.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ANOTHER CHINESE OPINION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, May 14th.

SIR.—In Saturday's issue of your paper a report is given of an interview your reporter has had with Mr. Shelton Hooper. He is reported as having said that the reason of the Chinese not taking advantage of the many vacant houses in the Colony is because they like to crowd together. This can hardly be the case, nor is it their "old custom", as is borne out by the fact that overcrowding does not exist in towns in their own country. Even in Canton, a city with a population of a million and a quarter inhabitants, overcrowding is not known in its busiest part. The reason for this is not far to seek. The rental there is cheap and the houses are built in quite a different style. I should think everyone would like to have a garden and a detached villa as a residence for his family, but one has not always the luck to be able to do so. The earnings of the poor coolies average from \$9 to \$12 a month, it is only natural that they want to crowd together as many as they can to share a floor, as the more they do the less rent they have to pay. The cause of the present overcrowded state of Hongkong is, I am inclined to think, due more to the high rent prevailing than to anything else.

It is quite true that the further you get from the centre of the town the cheaper is the rent, as far as shops are concerned, but it is not at all so in the case of family houses. Take, for instance, a house east of No. 2 Police Station (there are many vacant houses here), the rent there is about \$16 per floor per month. This rate, if not higher, must be equal to the rents of houses in side lanes in less busy parts of the Central and Sai-Ying-Pun districts. Why then should the Chinese move away from their work, to keep away from their relatives and friends and at the same time having to pay for tram hire, and be subjected to the difficulty of getting medical assistance in case of sickness among the members of their family?

As to tram cars, it is equally true that the Government made it a condition that the Tramway Company should run workmen's cars, but the Chinese do not avail themselves of them so much as they might have done. The many accidents that have occurred entailing the loss of human lives, have so alarmed the Chinese that they say they prefer to walk or ride in ricksha than to run the risk of losing their lives. In the interests of the Tramway Coy. themselves as well as the public at large, the cars should be allowed to stay a bit longer at the stations, as at present the passengers hardly have the time to get into or alight from the car before the next bell is rung to start. Unless ample time is given to alight the passengers naturally scramble to get out before the car actually stops.

Yours faithfully,

S. C.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

SHANGHAI, MAY 11TH.

The home markets are unchanged. Raw Silk.—Since our last issue total purchases amount to 10 bales Gold Filing at Tls. 525, a decline of Tls. 30 per picul on the last price quoted. Yellow silk.—The demand principally runs on Mienchewa, but Mienyangs and Wangchows have also been dealt in at declining prices. Hand Filatures.—Very little doing, holders have weakened in consequence of the continued rise in exchange, most of whom do not care to carry their stocks into the new season. Steam Filatures.—No business to report. Tussock Filatures.—A small business has been done this week on the basis Tls. 367½ for Spinning Girl 8 Cocoons. New Crop.—Reports from the producing districts are of a satisfactory nature, but it is too early to form any estimate of the crop. Mulberry leaves are good and plentiful. Waste Silks.—Nothing doing.

CANTON, 18th May, 1906.—First Crop.—So far it is impossible to ascertain any exact figure, but the crop will be much reduced owing to the large floods which have spoilt the Mulberry Trees. Long-reels.—The stock in 5th and 6th crops is nearly exhausted. A fair number of contracts in new silk have been made at prices varying according to the individual feeling of the dealers for delivery June to September. At the close many holders have withdrawn from the market owing to the very bad weather prevailing. From sales made we quote: for 6th crop silk: Free. Wing Cheong Sing 11/13 at \$990, Wing King Lun 9/11 at \$925, Wing Po Cheong 10/12 at \$900, Kwong Shun Hang 11/13 at \$905, Wai King Wo 18/22 at \$777½, Yee Wo Cheong 18/22 at \$776. In New Crops: Best 2me. ordre 18/22 at \$750 to \$755, Best 2me. ordre 22/28, 26/30 at \$745 to \$750, Best 3me. ordre 11/13, 13/15, 14/18 at \$740 to \$750. Short-reels.—The stock in 5th and 6th crops is finished. American buyers have shown a desire to operate, but at far lower limits than those asked by holders; nevertheless some contracts have been booked on the basis of \$805 for extra A 14 16, and \$765 for extra A 24 28. Waste Silk.—Has been considerably dealt in during the fortnight. There is very little old season's produce now left. Some contracts in New Waste have been placed for July/October delivery, but for the last 2 or 3 days holders have been reluctant to sell to arrive. Stock of silk in Canton: 800 bales.

RAW COTTON.

HONGKONG, 18th May.—Moderate business at a decline of \$½ to \$1 per picul. Stock about 800 bales.

Bombay.....	\$18.00 to \$20.00 per picul.
Bengal (New), Rangoon } ..	21.00 to 23.50
and Dacca	"
Shanghai and Japanese... ..	26.00 to 27.00
Tungchow and Ningpo	26.00 to 27.00
Reported sales 200 bales.	

KOBE MARKET REPORT.

The Kobe Market Report, published under the direction of the Hiogo and Osaka General Chamber of Commerce, and dated Kobe, 1st May, 1906, states:—

IMPORTS.

Cotton.—The market generally has ruled very dull and no transaction of any consequence is reported. The home prices are very well maintained, while here the market has been adversely affected by the decline in yarn quotations. Shirtings.—Cotton Goods and Fancies.—Nothing new to report. Worsteds and Woollens.—Values at Osaka are lower than at the beginning of the spring season. Prices for raw material are still going up at home. Window Glass.—Unchanged and quiet. Arrivals expected will easily fill demand. Metals.—Very little business passing. Bar-iron has advanced at home which, however, has not had any effect upon values here so far. Pig-iron is unchanged. Wire-nails.—Heavy shipments have arrived which have made an advance impossible. Galvanized Sheets are weaker at home; prices have declined. Sugar.—Beet.—No change but a dull market. Cane.—Hongkong Refined.—A general dullness prevails and there is no enquiry. Osaka Refined.—The market is very quiet. At the auction held on the 20th April 4,500 bags were withdrawn consequent upon the extremely low prices offered. Rice.—No change since last report; stocks in Hiogo are given as 760,000 bags.

EXPORTS.

Fish Oil.—Market unchanged, no enquiry, no transactions reported. A new factory is expected to open in this locality in the course of a few months. **Copper.**—Market firm. **Rice.**—Very little business doing, but prices advanced toward the end of the month. **Cotton Yarns.**—The high prices so long maintained have fallen considerably and there have been some failures amongst brokers in consequence. A good business has been done for export at the reduced prices. **Vegetable Wax.**—Notwithstanding the rumoured sale of 800 cases the market is weak with downward tendency, refiners anxious sellers at quotation. **Matting.**—No change to chronicle since last report. Continued scarcity of stocks keeps prices firm. **Straw Braid.**—A firmer tendency has been noticeable for contract goods, holders of stocks, however, seem anxious to realise at moderate figures, before the arrival of the new Straw in the market. No marked change has taken place in quotations for Chip Braid, although there is a slightly firmer indication.

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their Coal Report of 17th May, state that 23 steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 89,100 tons of coal. Since May 5th, 15 steamers have arrived with a total of 53,984 tons of coal. The Report also states that there has been some enquiries for medium quality of Moji and Karatsu Coals, and Sales are reported of 10,000 tons at \$7.85 to \$9.10 per ton ex-ship. Cardiff and Australian neglected.

Quotations:—

Cardiff.....\$15.00 ex-ship, nominal.
Australian.....\$9.50 to \$10.25 ex-ship, steady.
Yubari Lump...\$12.00 nominal.
Miiki Lump...\$12.00 steady.
Moji Lump.....\$9.00 to \$10.00 ex-ship, steady.
Akaike Lump...\$9.75 to \$10.00 steady.
Bengal.....\$9.00 to \$10.00 nominal.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee in his report, dated Hongkong, 18th May, says:—There is still no improvement to note in the continued quietness of this market. On the contrary the depression is becoming more acute. Middlemen are losing very heavily on their old purchases, and unless the unexpected happens shortly, the steady accumulation of contract goods will, ere long, tell disastrously on some of our unfortunate dealers. For the past few days, with the return of fine weather, the floods in the interior are said to be rapidly subsiding, and to this small thread of hope importers are attaching some significance, as the general opinion is that it will prove the forerunner of returning demand. Meanwhile our market has steadily declined since last report, and each successive sale has been at lower prices. A further general heavy fall in rates has taken place, but No. 20s have suffered less than the lower counts, which may be called fully \$3 to \$5 lower. Bombay continues weak.

Sales of the fortnight aggregate 2,321 bales, arrivals amount to 11,521, unsold stock estimated 84,000 and sold but uncleared goods 80,000 bales.

Local Manufacture:—No business is reported.

Japanese Yarn:—A single sale of a parcel of 100 bales Settsu No. 20s at \$145 is the only business of the fortnight.

Raw Cotton:—Continues to move very slowly owing to the dullness in the market for twist, and the only sales reported during the interval are some 170 bales Superfine Bengals at \$22½ to \$23. Stock 1,750 bales. China descriptions are entirely quiet with an unsold stock of 270 bales. Quotations are \$20 to \$23 Indian and \$22 to \$25 Chinese.

Exchange on India has fluctuated slightly and closes to-day at Rs. 157 for T/T and Rs. 157½ for Post. On Shanghai 71½ and on Yokohama 103.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the three weeks ended the 12th instant, viz:—

Indian:—Incessant heavy supplies are telling seriously on the market, prices showing a decline of Tls. 2 to 5, sales 7,500 bales with an estimated unsold stock of 94,000.

Japanese:—In rather steady demand, but weak in sympathy with Indian twist; sales amounting to 4,200 bales on the basis of Tls. 90 to 95½ for No. 16s and Tls. 104½ to 106 for No. 20s.

Local:—Market fairly steady, but no business.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 10th May, 1906, states:—Resuming our review of the annual returns of trade and trade reports we next come to Tientsin. In his opening remarks the Commissioner writes. "If a material

advance in 'vested interests,' investments in land, brick and mortar, or residential luxury may be considered to compensate, in some measure, for the lack of more direct endeavours towards strengthening a port's position as a centre of trade, Tientsin has, during the past year, at least, not neglected this compensatory influence. The building activity of previous years has continued unabated, and while much of it has been expended in the direction of rank luxury, there are also several additions of a sterling business nature, notably some fine godowns on and off the Bund, and in the Japanese settlement, which spell both progress and enterprise alike. Trade, from the trader's point of view, is said to have been very satisfactory; it has beaten all records, both in value of trade, tonnage and revenue, the latter having increased by about 50 per cent. A special feature of the year has been an increase of business settled direct with Foreign markets instead of through Shanghai. Imports.—The trade under this heading (i.e. direct) has been a remarkably healthy one throughout the year under review. Piece Goods claim the greatest share of the general stimulus, there being hardly an item in the long list which does not show substantial increase over the last few years. Grey Sheetings account for a considerable advance, due to a steady demand on the part of Chinese buyers which continued, although the terms for delivery became continually longer, with an upward tendency. This continued demand was naturally followed by a general rise in prices, rather out of proportion to the rise in Raw Cotton, and probably it was only the firm tendency of exchange which enabled these rising gold prices to be met without affecting the demand, which must have been considerable, seeing how long in advance orders had to be booked. Needless to say some misgivings were and are still felt as to a possible overstocking of the market, which may have its effect in the near future. The steadily sustained home prices, however, both in the raw and manufactured material, lend an excellent value to all earlier contracts, and accordingly have a favourable effect upon the present market and confidence generally. The remaining Cotton Piece Goods Prints, etc. have followed the strong tendency showed by the Grey and White staples. Other Foreign imports show, on the whole, the same favourable features." As regards the trade here, clearances although not good considering the heavy stocks, were not altogether unsatisfactory during March and April, but have now almost declined to the vanishing point. There seems to be absolutely no demand from any side! Still fresh supplies are coming in freely. Meanwhile Manchester is keeping very firm and is probably booking orders for the Northern markets, although from here nothing but a few indents for Fancy goods are going forward. Cotton is gradually creeping up, the Liverpool quotation for Mid. American coming yesterday 6.12d., that for Egyptian being unchanged from 10½d. The Yarn market is demoralised so far as imported spinnings are concerned. Raw Cotton is nominally unchanged. Practically business from stock has been confined to the Auctions, even the native holders finding the demand at a standstill.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 18th May.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN—The big slump in prices of about \$2 to \$3 for the higher and \$4 to \$5 for the lower counts during the fortnight, induced dealers to operate on a larger scale than hitherto. Quotations are:—No. 10s. at \$84 to \$100; No. 16s. at \$110 to \$129 and No. 20s. at \$115 to \$141. Arrivals 22,000 bales; Shipments 11,000 bales; Sales 4,000 bales; Bargains 68,000 bales. Unsold stock 65,000 bales.

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ... \$90.00 to \$128.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24, ... 140.00 to 160.00
" 22 to 24, ... 160.00 to 165.00
" 28 to 32, ... 167.50 to 175.00
" 38 to 42, ... 180.00 to 190.00

Reported sales 1,500 bales.

COTTON PIECE GOODS—Small sales. Market quiet.

Grey Shirtings—6 lbs. \$2.55 to ...
7 lbs. 3.35 to 4.10
8.4 lbs. 4.10 to 5.30
9 to 10 lbs. 4.10 to 5.30
White Shirtings—54 to 58 rd. 2.92 to 9.00
58 to 60 " 2.92 to 9.00
64 to 66 " 2.92 to 9.00
Fine 2.92 to 9.00
Book-folds 2.92 to 9.00
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ... 16.5 to 1.80

AMOY CUSTOMS RETURNS

MAY 12TH, 1906. List of the principal goods passed through the Amoy Custom House from 28th April to 4th May, 4 p.m., 1906:—

IMPORTS.

Goods.	QUANTITY.
Cotton, Raw, Indian	pls. —
" " Native	873
" " Yarn	625
Shirtings, Grey	pcs. 390
T-Cloths	585
Shirtings, White	1,000
T. Red Shirting	50
Drills	30
Shirtings Dyed, Brocades	134
" Dyed	10
Damasks	—
Camlets	75
Lasting	—
Spanish Stripes	yds. 29
Lustres, Figured	—
Lead, in pigs	pls. 12
Tin in slabs	107
Iron, Nail rod	—
Quicksilver	11
Iron, Old	—
Ironwire	12
Rice	31,060
Opium, Patna	—
" Benares	73
" Persian	2
" Malwa	—
" Szechuan	20
" Yunnan	27
" Kiangsu	—
Sesamum Seed	893
Sapanwood	—
Sandalwood	—
Rattans	—
Wheat	—
Flour	2,438
Beans	22,140
Beans and Peas	33,398
Bicho de Mer	277
Matao Tea	pcs. —
Oil, Ke osine American	gal. —
" " Borneo in bulk	—
" " Russian	—
" " Sumatra	—
" " Bulk	—
Coal	tons. —
Tobacco Leaf	pls. 1,620
Vermicelli	400

EXPORTS.

Goods.	QUANTITY.
Sugar, White	pls. 214
" Brown	—
" Candy	875
Hemp Bags	pcs. —
" Sacking	4,750
Paper 1 Quality	pls. 590
" II	94
Tobacco, Prepared	186
Kittysols (umbrellas)	pcs. —

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Bellerophon*, sailed on 8th May. For Havre or London or Continent:—14 cases camphor. For Amsterdam:—41 cases chinaware. For Amsterdam or London or Antwerp:—15 drums wood oil. For Amsterdam or Rotterdam:—100 bales galangal. For Rotterdam:—77 bags reanuta, etc. For Rotterdam or Continent:—100 bales split bamboo. For London:—26 cases shells, 175 bales canes, 1,107 packages mats, 446 packages merchandise. For London or Continent:—315 packages galangal, etc. For Glasgow:—10 packages sundries. For Manchester:—100 bales waste silk. For Copenhagen:—18 bales deck-feathers, 186 rolls mats. For Antwerp:—308 bales split bamboo, etc. 70 bales feathers, 75 boxes bristles.

Per steamer *Sachsen*, sailed on 9th May. For Aden:—750 bags sugar, 60 rolls chinaware, 50 cases casia. For Genoa:—200 slabs tin, 33 bales raw silk, 6 cases hemp, 2 cases silk. For Antwerp:—67 bales feathers, 14 cases chinaware, 14 bales leaf tobacco. For Amsterdam:—41 cases chinaware. For Bremen:—49 bales feathers, 33 rolls matting, 21 cases palm leaf fans, 16 cases chinaware, 5 cases blackwoodware, 2 cases curios. For Buenos Ayres:—176 packages tea. For Buenos Ayres or Montevideo:—251 packages tea. For Hamburg:—123 bales canes, 48 rolls matting, 35 cases chinaware, 12 cases preserves, 15 cases feathers, 10 cases palm leaf fans, 7 bales feathers, 1 case blackwoodware. For Copenhagen:—10 bales feathers, 3 cases chinaware, 2 cases preserves.

HANKOW, 9th May, 1906.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost packing for export:—

	Per picul.
Cowhides, Best Selected.....	Tls. 37.75
Do. Seconds.....	33.50
Buffalo Hides, Best Selected.....	18.50
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white color ..	70.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3-lbs. each ..	9.50
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi.....	12.00
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu ..	11.00
Green China Grass, Szechuen ..	12.75
Jute ..	5.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow ..	9.20
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow ..	9.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu ..	8.50
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu ..	8.75
Animal Tallow ..	10.00
Gallnuts, usual shape ..	16.50
Do. Plum do. ..	18.75
Tobacco, Tingchow ..	9.00
Do. Wongkong ..	10.75
Black Bristles ..	110.00
Feathers, Grey and/or White Duck ..	(nom.)
Do. Wild Duck ..	()
Turmeric ..	3.50
Sesamum Seed ..	4.00
Sesamum Seed Oil ..	8.00
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil.....	(nom.)
Wood Oil ..	8.50
Tea Oil ..	10.00

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 18th May, 1906. — Nothing worthy of any special note has occurred during the week, and with the exception of a further inclination to weakness, the market has ruled featureless.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been on offer during the week at \$850, but no sales are reported, and the market closes with sellers at that rate. Nationals have ruled quieter, and shares could probably be procured at quotation.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been placed at the improved rate of \$800, and at time of closing a higher rate would in all probability find further buyers. China Traders continue in demand, but no business has resulted. Cantons have improved to \$360 with sales, and close steady at that. The Northern Insurances remain unchanged and without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—The market has ruled dull with sellers of both Hongkongs and Chinas at quotations, and we have only small sales of the latter to report.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have changed hands at \$24½, the market closing with sellers at \$25. Douglases have been negotiated in small lots at \$40 and more could be placed at that rate. Indos continue quite neglected, and offers to sell at \$91 have met with no response: it is probable that a slightly lower rate would be accepted by sellers. Star ferries have found buyers at quotations. We have nothing else to report under this heading.

MINING.—Raubs have been placed at \$2.75 and \$3 closing steady at the former rate. Charbonnages remain unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars continue entirely out of the market and sellers at \$170 meet with no response. Luzons remain totally neglected and without business.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have further declined to \$162 the market closing with sellers at that rate and with no sales to report. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have declined to \$103½ without sales, closing with sellers. Shanghai Docks have ruled weak and close with a quotation from Shanghai of Tls. 115 sellers. We have nothing else to report under this heading.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands, in the early part of the week, changed hands in small lots at \$119 and \$120, the market closing a little easier at \$119. Humphreys have been placed in fair lots at \$11½ and close steady at that. Other stocks under this heading have been neglected, and we have nothing to report in them.

COTTON MILLS.—The quotations for the Northern Mills are taken from Shanghai. Hongkongs remain quiet with sellers at \$15.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Borneos have been in demand at \$6½ and some sales have taken place at that rate, the stock closing with buyers. China Providents, Green Islands,

Watsons and Powells have all changed hands at quotations and Hongkong Ice and China Light and Powers continue in demand at quotations without leading to business.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

Com.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$100
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai..	\$125	\$850, sellers
National B. of China		London, £80.15
A. Shares	25	\$38
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$7½, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$6½, buyers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$10½, buyers
China Provident	\$10	\$9, sales & sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 72
Hongkong	\$10	\$15, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 70
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 72
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 325
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$16
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$103½, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$162, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$17, buyers
Shanghai Dock and		
Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 115
S'hai & H. Wharf.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 227½
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$22, sellers
G. Island Cement.	\$10	\$29
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$210	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$16, x.d., sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$235
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$180
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$235, buyers
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$29, sellers
H'kong S. Waterboat	\$10	\$9½
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$360, sales
China Fire	\$20	\$86, sellers
China Traders	\$25	nominal
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$305, sellers
North China	25	Tls. 87½
Union	\$100	\$80, sales & buy.
Yangtze	\$60	\$175
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$119.
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$11½, sales
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$39
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 119
West Point Building	\$50	\$53
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$490
Raubs	18/10	\$2½, buyers
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$5½
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$170, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$25
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$22,
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$40, sales & buy.
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$25, sellers
Indo-China S.N. Co.	\$210	\$91, sellers
Shell Transport Co.	21	27½, sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$32, buyers
Do. New	\$5	\$22, buyers
Shanghai & H. Dyeing	\$50	\$50
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$20, sellers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$6
Stores & Dispensaries		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$32
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$10½, sellers
Watkins	\$10	\$5, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$13½, x.d., sales
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9
Do. Founders	\$10	\$160

VERNO & SMYTH, Brokers

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending the 10th May, 1906, states:—Owing to the Races a very limited business has been done during the week, and there is no change of any importance to report. Banks.—No local business to report. The quotation is still \$290, and Hongkong quotes \$860 sellers. The T. T. rate on London is 2s. 11½. Marine and Fire Insurance.—A single operation is reported in Yangtze Insurance Shares at \$175. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas. These shares have been sold at Tls. 60 for cash and Tls. 68 July, but the market is very quiet. Docks and Wharves.—A few cash Farhams have changed hands at Tls. 119 on a very quiet market. Shanghai and Hongkong Wharves have been dealt in at Tls. 226 cash and Tls. 227½ June. Sugars.—Peraks. There have been sales of this stock at Tls. 90 for cash. Mining.—No business reported. Lands.—No business reported. Industrial.—Ewo Cottons have changed hands at Tls. 70 for cash, all other Cotton Stocks are very quiet. China Flour are still offering at Tls. 80. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkat. Operations are reported at Tls. 242½ cash, Tls. 245 May, Tls. 246½ and 247½ June. Sumatras. There are buyers of this stock at Tls. 68. Gas. A fair number of Gas Shares have changed hands at Tls. 135 and 132½. Waterworks 210 paid were sold at Tls. 275. Stores and Hotels.—Centrals are now \$15½. Miscellaneous.—Telephones are still in demand at Tls. 64, and a few Horse Bazaar Shares have been sold at Tls. 65. Loans and Debentures.—No business reported.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 18th May.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/1½
Bank Bills, on demand	2/1½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/1½
ON LONDON.—	
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	2/1½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/1½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/1½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	245½
Credits 4 months' sight	269½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	216
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	51½
Credits, 60 days' sight	52½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	157
Bank, on demand	157½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	157
Bank, on demand	157½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71½
Private, 30 days' sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	103
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	102½
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	11½ p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	127
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	3 p.m.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	2½ p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	61
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$9.45
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$49.90
BAR SILVER, per oz.	\$30½

FREIGHT.

Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Freight Market Report, dated Shanghai 10th May, 1906, states:—Our Homeward Freight Market in extremely dull, with no change. Coastwise.—There has been a further decline in rates from Japan, owing to the total lack of demand for steamers. There has been a slightly better enquiry from the river ports, but on the whole the market could not be in a worse condition.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 48/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 41/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) 32/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) Tea 39/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (overland) Tea 6½ cents per lb. gross, plus river freight. To Shanghai: Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.60 to 1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST

MAIL.

- May—
 13, Holstein, German str., from Haiphong.
 13, Istria, German str., from Hankow.
 13, Justin, U.S. supply ship, from Manila.
 13, Polynesian, French str., from Yokohama.
 13, Kajah, German str., from Bangkok.
 14, Apenrade, German str., from Hoihow.
 14, Callao, U.S. gunboat, from Canton.
 14, Catherine Apar, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
 14, Hallan, French str., from Pakhoi.
 14, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 14, Loos-k, German str., from Bangkok.
 14, Nikko Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
 14, Salazie, French str., from Marseilles.
 14, Silvia, German str., from Shanghai.
 14, Talsban, British str., from Bangkok.
 14, Trigonia, British str., from Swatow.
 14, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 15, America Maru, Jap. str., from S. Francisco.
 15, Awa Maru, Japanese str., from Shanghai.
 15, Binh-Thuan, French str., from Chinkiang.
 15, Childar, Norwegian str., from Moji.
 15, Fooksang, British str., from Calcutta.
 15, Kiukiang, British str., from Shanghai.
 15, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 15, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
 15, Peehawur, British str., from London.
 15, Unda, Norwegian str., from Chefoo.
 15, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Nagasaki.
 16, Acilia, German str., from Hamburg.
 16, Arabia, German str., from Portland.
 16, Cambodia, Danish str., from Antwerp.
 16, Chipshing, British str., from Tientsin.
 16, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 16, Fri, Norwegian str., from Canton.
 16, Haimun, British str., from Coast Ports.
 16, Ilford, British str., from Moji.
 16, Kashiug, British str., from Swatow.
 16, Oceana, British str., from Bombay.
 16, Pronto, Norwegian str., from Newchwang.
 16, Quinta, German str., from Chinkiang.
 16, Sabine Rickmers, Brit. str., from Canton.
 16, Taiwan, British str., from Bangkok.
 16, Tinhow, British str., from Cardiff.
 17, Benlomond, British str., from London.
 17, Delhi, British str., from Shanghai.
 17, Hinsang, British str., from Wuhu.
 17, Hongwan I, British str., from Straits.
 17, Su lberg, German str., from Amoy.
 17, Taikoson Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- May—
 13, Wakasa Maru, Jap. nese str., for Bombay.
 13, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
 14, Castor, Norwegian str., for Tientsin.
 14, Hilary, German str., for Hongay.
 14, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
 14, Sandakan, German str., for Bangkok.
 15, Andalusia, German str., for Shanghai.
 15, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
 15, Daphne, German str., for Vladivostock.
 15, Derwent, British str., for Saigon.
 15, Hallan, French str., for Pakhoi.
 15, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 15, Heimdal, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
 15, Huichow, British str., for Tientsin.
 15, Istria, German str., for Hamburg.
 15, Knivsberg, German str., for Haiphong.
 15, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Canton.
 15, Polynesian, French str., for Europe.
 15, Salazie, French str., for Shanghai.
 15, Silvia, German str., for Hamburg.
 15, Taming, British str., for Manila.
 16, Apenrade, German str., for Hoihow.
 16, Awa Maru, Japanese str., for London.
 16, Binh-Thuan, French str., for Canton.
 16, Emma Luyken, Ger. str., for Mauritius.
 16, Laisang, British str., for Calcutta.
 16, Mai suru Maru, Jap str., for Anping.
 16, Nikko Maru, Japanese str., for Nagasaki.
 16, Quinta, German str., for Canton.
 16, Sungkiang, British str., for Cebu.
 17, Chipehing, British str., for Canton.
 17, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 17, Kinkiang, British str., for Canton.
 17, Oceana, British str., for Shanghai.
 17, Peehawur, British str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Polynesian*, for Hongkong from Yokohama, Mr. D. R. Moss, Mr. and Mrs. Pitault; from Shanghai, Major Parken, Messrs. W. J. Gresson, Condington Hedgeland, A. J. Williams, Fitzgibbon, Mrs. Petronella de Santo, Dr. F. Muller, Messrs. Leiser, Rutledge, D.

McDonald, Quintas, Mrs. A. Brown; for Colombo from Yokohama, Mrs. Black, Miss Terry, Mr. Lionel George; from Shanghai, Mr. J. Hargreaves; for Port Said from Kobe, Messrs. Karponitch and Shopaky; for Marseilles from Yokohama, Comte de Verdonnet, Messrs. Fichet, Jeunen, Mr. and Mrs. Horiguchi and daughter, Mrs. Lala, Mrs. Belge, Mr. and Mrs. Sibidon and 2 children, Messrs. Robert Lub, Hache, Jégrand, Brunet, Simon, Le Bad, Berronet, from Kobe, Mr. G. Dernelle; from Shanghai, Mr. Pasque, Mrs. Reich and 2 children, Messrs. L. Marzoli, Vialis, Dubail, Capt. Sheldraker, Mrs. Grove, Messrs. Fils Henri, Kahn, Onie, Gomp, Rev. Giron, Mr. H. M. Macquer, Mr. and Mrs. Marie and 2 children, Messrs. Rousset, Marian, Lefevre, Cesari, Boviére, Ricklin, Hugonnet and Rigoni.

Per *Salazie*, for Hongkong from Colombo, Mr. Bammem; from Singapore, Messrs. Ronff, And-ys, Major H. de Philiff, Messrs. Hoffmann, F. B. Hoffmann, Muneya; from Saigon, Mr. Colas; for Shanghai from Marseilles, Messrs. J. Armand, Patusel, Eckenfelder, T. House, Guerin Duprit, Blondeau, Nova, Sepes, Bating, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Lesoy, Messrs. J. B. Richie, Pezzini and Boushis; from Colombo, Mr. Cookton; from Singapore, Messrs. L. Wolfe, Dawson, Poncoraus, J. F. Mullett, Kauffmann; from Saigon, Mrs. Denis; for Kobe from Singapore, Mr. K. Sira; for Yokohama from Marseilles, Miss Lamargnette; from Colombo, Mr. Garangafany, Lieuts. Gilles, Dodd and Roe; from Singapore, Messrs. J. Filbert, Ragho Rain and Knoetsin; from Saigon, Mr. Hermanovits.

Per *Nikko Maru*, from Australia, &c., for Hongkong, Messrs. H. J. Ulph, J. W. Pears, house, Miss Andrews, Mrs. Garrett, Miss Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Mogouie, Messrs. C. E. Carpenter, Ross, Norton Francis, E. C. Sundholme, Miss Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. J. Dwyer, Messrs. J. W. Dwyer, G. L. Dwyer, Vellar, Haary Yee, C. Falk, Mr. and Mrs. C. Buddle, Mr. H. N. Fiok, Miss W. Fink, Miss N. Brandt, Mr. R. J. Blake; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. George Hudson, Messrs. G. L. Godfrey, A. Godfrey, Revs. McCarthy and Martin, Messrs. W. Lawrenson and Hayes, Mr. and The Hon. Mrs. Van Sittart, Messrs. W. H. Mackay and E. Sheppard, Miss Hudson, Messrs. Arthur J. M. Simpson and Carlisle Studholme, Miss Salter, Miss G. Hardie, Miss M. Hardie, Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone, Messrs. S. J. Sauglton, J. M. Stawell, Gerald Fitzgerald, Miss K. Taylor, Miss A. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Allen and child, Miss Edgar, Mr. W. F. Gunn, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Mackay, Hon. G. H. Greene, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Westney, Mrs. B. Christy, Round the World (via Yokohama), Mr. L. F. Parsons and Miss Kay Parsons. For London via Yokohama, Miss L. A. Marsden, Miss U. Marsden, Miss Smith, Nurse Bloomfield, Mrs. James Moseley, Revs. W. I. Carr-Smith and S. Marston.

Per *Awa Maru*, from Shanghai, Mrs. and Miss Swift, Mrs. W. Jackson and child, Mrs. Brunfield, Mrs. Mancoll and child, Masters R. and M. Scott, Miss Richards, Capt. R. W. Flanagan, Messrs. S. B. Riley and E. Bourntchek.

Per *Yawata Maru*, from Japan for Hongkong, Mr. T. Takamichi, Mr. and Mrs. K. Tomotune, Mrs. and Miss Robertson, Messrs. W. Daniel, A. R. Lewis, C. Glover, Mrs. J. M. Healey, Mrs. K. Usui, Miss K. Yamaguchi; for Manila, Messrs. F. Basa, Son Basa, E. S. Eby and S. Hirota; for Townsville, Mr. S. Tojio; for Sydney, Mrs. H. Thomson, Mr. Ross.

Per *America Maru*, from San Francisco, &c., Miss Eva Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur W. Cornwall, Messrs. T. H. W. Price, A. F. Judd, W. Austin, P. S. Moss, Mrs. McBelvin, Dr. G. L. Wickes, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Fell, Miss Alice Sullivan, Miss Florence Mullen, Mrs. P. van Horn Lansdale, Misses Sidney and Bertha Smith, Mr. W. B. Dickson, Mrs. Leney, Miss C. D. Leney, Miss C. L. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Metcalf, Messrs. A. Graham Gow, A. N. Silva, Mrs. H. Ross, Mrs. F. Schmidt, Miss C. Eddy, Mrs. J. F. Eddy, Mrs. C. E. Hamblen, Mrs. N. W. Rountree, Mr. R. C. Rountree.

Per *Oceana*, for Hongkong from London, Messrs. Jas. McGregor and Jno. Boyd, Misses Graham, Battie and Rickard, Mr. J. E. Menagh, Dr. McLaren Neilson, Mr. Gibson; from Marseilles, Messrs. Harvey, Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Birkett, Mr. Robt. Pfund, Mrs. Pascua.

Mercedes, Mr. and Miss Johnston; from Malta, Mr. Ramsay; from Bombay, Lieut. Stranger Leathes, Messrs. K. A. Henry, J. Ollie, E. Talati, Mr. and Mrs. Dastur; from Colombo, General Palmer Master and Mr. Paul Rayman; from Penang, Mrs. Hall; from Singapore, Messrs. Perpetuo and Costello, Mr. and Mrs. Cheek and 2 children, Mr. McCann, Mr. and Mrs. Hilbert, Drs. Kodesker and Smend, Messrs. Takake and Sasaki; for Shanghai from London, Messrs. W. F. Ranken, J. R. Murray, Mrs. H. Turner, Dr. Balmo, Mr. Cecile Biron, Mrs. Fraham, Miss Gillingham, Messrs. Sytherleigh and H. B. Mallet; from Bombay, Lieut. Col. E. S. Lawless; from Singapore, Capt. Gardiner; for Kobe from Bombay, Mr. Bamji; for Yokohama from London, Mr. and Miss March, Mr. and Miss Gillbard and infant; from Marseilles, Mr. Manning; from Port Said, Capt. M. J. Hamilton.

Per *Delhi*, from Shanghai for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. Muller, Miss Cooper, Mrs. Holdsworth, Mr. Starr, Mr. and Mrs. Reid, Messrs. Helderling, Hoepf and Jadrass; for Singapore, Messrs. Schultze and Binstead; for Port Said, Messrs. Varenoff, Weanesky and Skwarsky; for Marseilles, Mr. O'Neil; for London, Mrs. Carter and child, Mr. and Mrs. Crocker and infant, Mr. and Mrs. McLeod and 3 children, Misses Churcher, Page and Wilson, Mr. Blake, Mrs. Tiley and infant, Mr. Murdoch; from Yokohama for Hongkong, Mr. Johnson, Miss Penruddocks, Mr. Stratton; for Colombo, Messrs. Bell and Rhodes; for London, Mrs. Witwick and Mr. Leach.

DEPARTED.

Per *Salazie*, for Shanghai, Messrs. Francisco Rodrigues Saavedra, J. J. de Souza, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. C. von Kerchoff, Mrs. O. F. Campbell, Messrs. Hagenblag, Paul Hafemann, Miss S. C. Plummer, Miss E. P. McCornell, Mr. H. Rumford, Mrs. Mere Felloie, Mrs. Sosar Alfred, Messrs. Leon Hackmeier and C. A. Britto; for Kobe, Mr. J. J. de Gast, Mr. and Mrs. Malignot; for Yokohama, Messrs. Pedro Tanchanco and Ed. Gutierrez David.

Per *Polynesian*, for Saigon, Mr. and Mrs. Baillie, Messrs. Meyer, Thos. W. Clarke, Rev. Paul Simon, Messrs. Heaulm, Louis Windsor; for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. L. Breyfogle, Mr. W. A. Dowley; for Marseilles, Mr. Fisher, Mrs. Gamin, Messrs. J. Trevoux, J. O. Bergendahl, T. H. Hamman, Mr. and Mrs. Pitault, Messrs. Brugger, Guich, Rev. A. Fourquet, Messrs. Decostero, Eymer, J. Jacquier, Mr. and Mrs. d'Estabean, Messrs. Lanand and Eugeter.

Per *Awa Maru*, for London, &c., Mr. E. Bourntchek, Dr. T. Miyoshi, Miss Richards, Mrs. and Miss Swift, Messrs. T. Yonemura and Chars, Miss K. Inusuka, Mr. and Mrs. Fuyumura, Mrs. W. Jackson and child, Mrs. Brunfield, Masters H. and W. Scott, Mrs. Mancoll and child, Messrs. S. Kato, S. Yamada, S. Noma, H. Watanabe, T. Kodama, T. Kato, H. Yoshimura, A. E. Hirsol, S. Miyoshi, Edw. Windsor, F. S. G. Piggott, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Tarrant, Miss Caldwell, Mrs. F. O. Seaton, Mr. H. W. Jones, Mrs. Kendall and children, Messrs. C. P. Lynborg, F. Bode, I. Nagai, Mrs. Moto, Miss Fude, Mr. M. Nakai.

Per *Nikko Maru*, for Japan, Mr. L. Parsons, Miss Parsons, Mr. L. Marsden, Mr. and Mrs. Hudson, Misses Marsden, Salter and Hudson, Mr. G. Godfree, Mr. and Mrs. J. Mackay, Mr. A. Godfree, Revs. McCarthy, Martin, Messrs. Lawrenson, Hayes, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone, Hon. and Mrs. Van Sittart, Miss Taylor, Miss K. Taylor, Mrs. Andrews, Messrs. Mackay, Sheppard, A. Simpson, O. Studholme, Mr. and Mrs. J. Dwyer, Messrs. E. Studholme, Francis, Dwyer, J. Dwyer, Stanghton, J. Stawell, Mrs. Garrod, Miss Hardie, Mrs. Christy, Mr. G. Fitzgerald, Hon. Greene, Miss Hardy, Mr. W. Genu, Mr. and Mrs. C. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. F. Stuart, Miss Jones, Mr. A. Budman, Miss Carr Smith, Rev. Carr Smith, Miss Bloomfield, Mrs. J. Moseley, Mr. and Mrs. G. Westney, Rev. S. Marston, Mr. T. Kato, Misses M. Araki, F. Ishikawa, K. Ohmoto, Mr. and Mrs. M. Muneya, Master Muneya, Mr. K. Matsuda, Capt. Thornhill, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Jupp and children, Miss Grant, Messrs. Ulph and P. Parahouse.

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